

CAZON  
LF  
-M51

Copyright  
Publication

M O N T H L Y      B U L L E T I N

D E P A R T M E N T

G A M E   A N D   F I S H E R I E S

1936

1937

V o l u m e 1



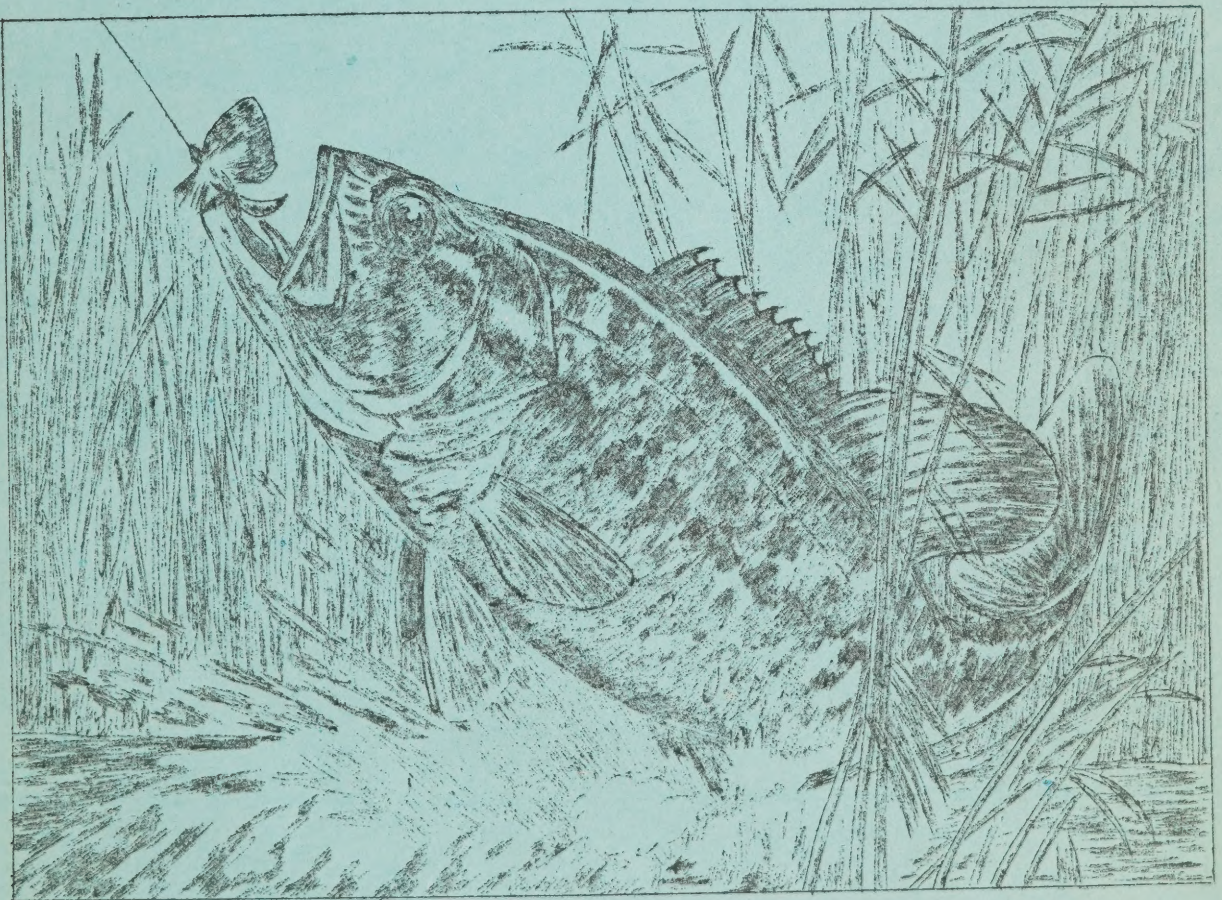


J. Macarty - Edison





ONTARIO  
MONTHLY BULLETIN  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
GAME AND FISHERIES



AUGUST, 1936







MONTHLY BULLETIN

Department of Game and Fisheries  
Toronto Ontario

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary,  
Minister in charge of Department,

D. J. Taylor, Deputy Minister.

Published to stimulate interest in  
the conservation of the Wild Life  
Natural Resources of the Province  
of Ontario

---

In presenting this, the first of what we hope will be a monthly bulletin, we have in mind an extension of the publicity work by which we are endeavouring to make the people of the Province more deeply conscious of the valuable heritage we possess in our wild life natural resources, and the necessity for conserving these resources.

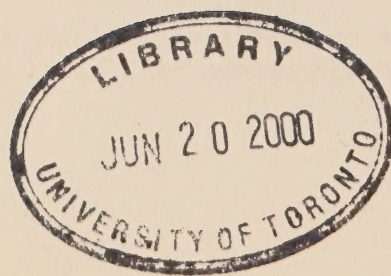
We appreciate the co-operation of the Sportsmen's Association throughout the Province, as well as the individual co-operation of all those who, from an aesthetic or recreational standpoint, are interested in the wild life.

With a view to fostering this spirit of co-operation it is our desire to convey to the public all the information in the possession of the Department concerning the wild life resources of our forests, lakes and streams, and we hope that a wider knowledge of conditions will result in a keener realization by the individual of his own responsibility for the protection of these important assets.

We invite the various Protective Associations to contribute from time to time information regarding their conservational activities or other matters which may be of interest to fellow sportsmen and we shall use as much of such suitable matter as space will permit.

In this issue the activities of the Department are summarized and we believe the information given will be of general interest.

*H. C. Nixon*





The Province of Ontario, like most of the other Provinces in Canada and the States of the Union is faced with the problem of how best to conserve its wild life natural resources to ensure that future generations may continue to enjoy the recreational pleasures of hunting and fishing, which are a priceless heritage.

At the outset it should be noted that the situation in the Province is not alarming. Nevertheless with the progress of civilization and all it entails, the ever increasing number of sportsmen including tourists, the depredations of law breakers and predatory animals, it has become necessary to vigorously pursue a policy of conservation, propagation and restoration. To show how the Department of Game and Fisheries, assisted by the various sportsmen's Protective Associations throughout the Province is endeavouring to meet the situation, is the object of this article.

For the purpose of unifying science and practice on a proper working basis, the Department has established a "Biological and Fish Culture Branch". Under its supervision nineteen fish hatcheries were operated in the Province last year. Six of these were used for the culture of game-fish exclusively, twelve performed a dual function, namely the propagation of both commercial and game-fish; and one was used for the culture of commercial fish exclusively. In addition nine trout rearing stations, and five rearing locations for small-mouthed black bass were operated during the year.

Fry, fingerling, yearlings and adult fish of the following species: Lake Trout, Speckled Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Small-mouthed and Large-mouthed Black Bass, Maskinonge, Pickerel, Whitefish and Herring to the number of 788,393,810 were produced and distributed from Provincial Hatcheries to the public waters of Ontario last year. The following summary shows the distribution for 1936:

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2022 with funding from  
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761115469918>



Department of Game and Fisheries

Monthly Bulletin

SPECIES	FRY	FINGERLINGS	Yearlings and Adults	TOTALS
Whitefish	392,514,000			392,514,000
Herring	56,120,000			56,120,000
Lake Trout	8,816,000	15,718,500*		24,534,500
Pickereel	302,759,000			302,759,000
Perch	46,080,000			46,080,000
Maskinonge	274,000			274,000
Small-mouthed Black Bass	800,000*	100,000*	5,000*	905,000
Large-mouthed Black Bass	45,000*	14,000*		59,000
Speckled Trout	210,000	1,500,000 2,000,000 +	700,000*	4,410,000
Brown Trout		150,000 100,000 +	7,245	257,245
Rainbow Trout		200,000*	3,240	203,240
Kamloops Trout		85,464 †	10,796 †	96,260
Ouananiche			13,648 †	13,648
	807,618,000	19,867,964	739,929	828,225,893

\* Estimated distribution

† To be retained over Winter

‡ Distributed in 1935

NOTE: The above figures do not include trout retained for breeding purposes in ponds at the Ontario Government Trout Rearing Stations.





These fish are not distributed in a haphazard way, but are placed only after careful report and study of the suitability of the waters for the rearing of the fish intended therefor. The planting is done with the assistance of Game Protective Associations and under supervision of Departmental Officials. The Biological Branch further undertakes the duty of checking waters in which species of fish such as Trout, Bass and Pickerel have been introduced for the first time, or to depleted waters, to determine the success or failure of such planting and reasons therefor. By these means the Department of Game and Fisheries is supplementing the work of nature in maintaining good fishing in suitable public waters.

As the water area over which the Department has jurisdiction from the Fisheries standpoint, approximates 80,000 square miles, it is a herculean task to maintain and conserve the fish supply. Climatic conditions vary considerably and this necessitates a division of restrictions and seasonable regulations. Here again the Biological Branch is able to utilize the results of its study by establishing the practical requirements in connection with conservational regulations such as:

- (a) Provisions to give the fish an opportunity to spawn unmolested, by the protection which an adequate close season affords.
- (b) Limits of catch consistent with conservation principles and the probable productive capacity of the waters.
- (c) Size and weight limits attained by mature fish.

#### RESTRICTED WATERS

In connection with its fish culture programme it is the policy of the Department to set aside each year for varying periods a number of lakes and streams, as well as certain areas in large bodies of water, for the purpose of the natural propagation of game fish. These closed waters serve as bases of supply either for self replenishment or for the replenishing of other waters, or for the purpose of building up a properly balanced relationship among all the organisms in the body of water closed. In these restricted areas all fishing is prohibited. It will be obvious that a close season for several years will not only take care of replenishment, but will also conserve the parent stock.

While it is difficult to compute the size of the areas of restricted waters, it will be of interest to note that at the present time thirty-three such bodies of water have been closed to fishing. These consist of some fifteen lakes with tributary waters, and eighteen creeks and rivers. This total represents nearly twice as many as in the previous year and is significant of the value placed on this method of propagation.



Lack of space prevents us from listing the restricted waters, but they are all posted with official "No Fishing" signs, and particulars may be secured by applying to the Department or by consulting the blue book.

### G A M E   P R E S E R V E S

It is obvious that while it is possible to propagate fish by artificial methods the question of maintaining the supply of game presents an entirely different problem.

Big game such as Deer, Moose, Elk and Caribou must be propagated under natural conditions, and the best way to accomplish this is to afford them protection in the wilds. With this in mind action has been taken in accordance with the provisions of the Game and Fisheries Act, to establish Crown Game Preserves. Every year the area set aside as a sanctuary in which the more desirable species of game could exist unmolested has been extended by the creation of additional preserves. At the present time there is in excess of five and three-quarters million acres included in the ninety-five Crown Game Preserves already established. Hunting and trapping upon these preserve areas is forbidden and the more desirable species of game animals are further protected through control of predatory animals.

Within the past year the Department has enlarged the policy in connection with: Game Preserves to include small areas of 1000 acres or so located at strategic points in each county, with the primary object of protecting and propagating, under natural conditions, upland game birds such as the Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Quail and Hungarian Partridge. The birds raised on the Department Bird Farms at Codrington and Normandale will be released within these small game preserves and protected over a period of years so that they may have an opportunity to increase and develop undisturbed and without molestation from hunters. As in the case of the larger preserves no hunting or trapping will be permitted in these areas, and arrangements will be made to protect the birds from other predatory birds and animals. Already twenty-five of these small Crown Game Preserves have been established in Southern Ontario and reports from the different areas show a gratifying increase in bird life. It is hoped that these preserves will serve to populate the unprotected areas and provide the sportsman with the incentive for real recreation during the open season for upland game birds. The response of the public to the request for the use of suitable lands has been very gratifying and the work of setting up these preserves is still continuing. During 1935, 17,430 pheasant eggs were supplied to Associations and individuals for hatching purposes and the resultant birds released at maturity. Adult birds numbering 1097 were also released by the Department during the same period. In 1936 over 2000 adult birds were released, almost twice as many as in 1935, in addition to 17,190 eggs supplied for private hatching.





P R O T E C T I V E   S E R V I C E

The Department maintains a staff of permanent field officers numbering some seventy-six, whose duty it is to enforce and secure observance of the provisions of the Game and Fisheries Act and Regulations. The services of this regular Field Staff is augmented by the assistance and co-operation of members of the Provincial Police Force and certain seasonal officers whose services are retained in connection with the matter of providing adequate patrol service along important waters during the spring and fall fish spawning periods and during the various hunting seasons. That interested sportsmen are concerned in this branch of activity is noted by the fact that to date this year some 800 offered and were accepted as Deputy Game Wardens, who, as such were authorized to assist in the matter of securing proper observance of the Game and Fisheries Regulations. While there will probably always be a number of necessary prosecutions it is felt that this, in minor cases, is not a desirable method of securing observance of the Act. The Department believes that many infractions are the result of thoughtlessness, and a lack of knowledge concerning the real worth of our wild life heritage. With this in mind an effort is being made to acquaint the public with the economic and recreational value of these resources with the hope that the spread of knowledge will make for a better observance of the Act.

P U B L I C I T Y

A great deal of lecture work was carried on last fall and winter through the Sportsmen's Association, Service Clubs, and Schools. Close to one hundred public addresses were delivered while suitable talks on Conservation were given to the pupils of about twenty-five schools. It is hoped to extend this work so that conservation may be taught as part of the school curriculum. This educational and publicity work will, we feel sure, result in a better understanding by the public of the need for co-operation in the work being undertaken by the Department to conserve the fish and game resources of the Province. An enlightened public opinion will undoubtedly result in less law breaking, more consideration for private property, less waste in hunting and fishing and a larger measure of support in the protective work of the Department.

A   V A L U A B L E   H E R I T A G E

While sportsmen have a special interest in the conservation of our wild life resources, the subject is of vital importance to every person in the Province. If we were in a position to compute the value of these resources we would be amazed at the result. Their value however, cannot be





computed in dollars and cents, but the tourist trade alone should be sufficient to convince us of their worth. It is estimated that in 1935 tourists from the United States and other countries to the number of 10,815,258 entered Canada and left behind in cash approximately \$201,027,000. Of this huge total the Province of Ontario received approximately \$84,233,000. Of the total cars entering the Dominion, 2,374,517 or approximately 66% came to Ontario. Estimating three persons to a car we have a total of 7,123,551 visitors to the Province during the 1935 season, to say nothing of those who came by other means of transportation.

This year it is expected that these totals will be considerably increased, in fact it is anticipated that the peak year 1929, when tourists spent approximately \$100,000,000 in the Province of Ontario, will be equalled.

The importance of the tourist business is quite obvious. Its ramifications embrace almost every branch of industry. It gives employment to thousands of persons directly and indirectly. The money spent by the tourists is neither localized nor centralized but accrues in some measure to the benefit of every man, woman and child in the Province. Think, for example of the home market opened up for farm produce by the yearly influx to the Province of between seven and eight million people, and then visualize the industries and activities that share in every tourist dollar and you begin to appreciate how much the business means to the people of Ontario.

We have emphasized the value of the tourist traffic because it is generally conceded that one of the chief attractions to the tourist is our excellent fishing. As proof that angling is one of the chief drawing cards we would point to the fact that there was an increase in the purchase of non-resident angling licenses during 1935 to the extent of \$66,000, and to date 1936 shows a purchase reaching almost \$30,000 in excess of last year. Every tourist advertisement features the available fishing and the majority of enquiries are along the same lines. Our thousands of lakes and streams well stocked with fish will ensure the permanency of this important business.

The Department of Game and Fisheries, as we have tried to show in this booklet, is doing its best to attain this ideal, by means of an extensive re-stocking programme, by restricted areas and by protective measures designed to conserve the supply.

### A NEW POLICY

The policy of the Department in connection with the distribution of fish has recently been changed. So far as is possible efforts will now be made to carry the fish to nearer the adult or legal size before liberating them in the waters of the Province. The development of this policy has been pushed in connection with speckled trout and we print herewith a summary



Department of Game and Fisheries

Monthly Bulletin

of the distributions for the past four years, showing the progress made along these lines.

SPECKLED TROUT	Eyed eggs	FRY	FINGERLINGS	Yearlings and Adults
1933	506,000	725,000	5,950,255	29,786
1934	-	-	6,257,267	36,414
1935	-	1,643,000	5,013,802	40,841
1936	-	210,000	1,500,000	700,000
			* 2,000,000	

\* To be retained over winter.

Note: The difference in the quantities distributed in 1935 as compared with 1936 is accounted for by the fact that our objective is to discontinue, as far as possible, the planting of fry and early fingerlings and to carry the quantity of late fingerlings and yearlings that can be properly accommodated at the various trout rearing stations.

The 700,000 yearlings and adult fish distributed in 1936 ranged from 4 to 8 inches and averaged 6 inches in length. It is hoped to increase the numbers in 1937 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions and to continue the same progress yearly until the distribution of this class will be all yearlings or adult fish. We feel sure that the mortality rate among this size of fish will be small and that 90% of them will survive to fall prey to the skill of the angler.

To cope with the additional accommodation required two extra rearing ponds have been added to the hatchery at Chatsworth, while it is the intention of the Department to erect a hatchery and series of ponds at North Bay this year.

To take care of the carryovers it has been necessary to make use of a number of Bass ponds. It is hoped to make alterations to the ponds at Ingersoll this year to provide accommodation for 200,000 speckled trout during the fall, winter and spring months.

CHANGES IN DUCK SEASONS

We would draw to the attention of hunters the fact that the Federal Government acting under the Migratory Birds Convention Act has amended the open seasons for wild fowl in the Province to the dates given below. These amendments will supersede the dates given in the Game and Fisheries Act, and





Department of Marine and Fisheries

Monthly Bulletin

sportsmen are required to observe them.

DUCKS AND GEESE- (other than Brant)

"North and west of the French and Mattawa Rivers and Lake Nipissing including the district of Manitoulin - September 15th to November 15th, both days inclusive."

"South of the French and Mattawa Rivers - October 1st, to November 30th, both days inclusive."

No change in the open seasons for Snipe and Woodcock.

B A G L I M I T S

	Day	Season
Ducks (other than Merganser)	12	150
Geese	5	50
Rails, Coots, etc.	25	
Snipe	25	
Woodcock	8	125

Use of live birds as decoys is prohibited. Baiting prohibited (as in 1935.)

D E E R S E A S O N S

For the information of the many thousands of hunters who go north each fall to a favourite camp or hunting ground in search of deer or moose we would draw attention to a number of changes in the seasons and regulations.

The Province has this year been divided into four districts, lettered for convenience A, B, C, and CC.

District "A" is the territory lying north of the main line of the Canadian National Railway and the open season is the same as last year - September 15th to November 25th.

District "B" is the district lying south of the main line of the Canadian National Railway with its southern boundary being described as "north of the Mattawa River, Lake Nipissing and the French River to Bigwood, the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Bigwood to the north boundary of Morse Township, the north boundary of Morse and Dennie Townships, the boundary between Sudbury and Algoma Districts to Block 24, Range 15, and the south boundary of Blocks 24 to 29, Range 15 to Lake Superior."

Open season October 15th to November 25th.





Department of Game and Fisheries

Monthly Bulletin

District "C" represents a new division and is composed of parts of the districts of Sudbury, Algoma and Manitoulin lying south of the area described in division "B" and north of the French River.

Open season - November 1st, to November 25th. In St. Joseph's Island and Manitoulin Island the season is November 10th, to November 25th.

District "CC" south of the French and Mattawa Rivers (except south-western and certain eastern counties)

Season - November 5th, to November 20th.

An Amendment to the Act this year makes it illegal to carry a rifle of greater calibre or projective power than a twenty-two calibre low-powered rifle during the open season for Moose or Deer in areas which such animals inhabit or in which they are usually found, under what is known as a gun license. In other words hunters carrying rifles of a higher calibre than a twenty-two in legal territory during the open seasons for deer and moose must be provided with a deer or moose license.

It is illegal for one person to use or be accompanied by a dog:

Two or three persons may use one dog.

Four or five persons may use two dogs.

Six or seven persons may use three dogs.

Eight or more persons may use four dogs.

It is unlawful for any person to use snares for any purpose in any part of Ontario during the open season for deer and moose in such part.

O U T F I S H I N G !

Speaking of sport reminds us that fishing is one of the finest recreations available to the sportsmen. It is not primarily an art or a science, although it combines both, rather is it a philosophy: a philosophy of happiness, contentment and the worth while things of life. It is one of the incentives which draws hundreds of thousands of us into the great outdoors by lake or stream each season.

"Fishing" says James Oliver Curwood, "is the finest character building activity under the sun for human hearts and souls." The environment surrounding the sport is wholesome, the thrill of combat is personal, while the friendships engendered are always worth while.

To be a good fisherman one must begin with a foundation of good sportsmanship, every man his own referee and playing the game according to





the rules. This is a disciplinary drill which is essential, for the opponents in this case are always mute.

The art of fishing too develops Patience and Perseverance, which are the pre-requisites of Contentment: - no other sport is so conducive to peace of mind; contentment engenders Happiness; while happiness and Health are closely allied. Thus we find that all the worth while things of life in character and citizenship may be developed while enjoying this delightful recreation.

---

A feller isn't thinkin' mean - out fishin'  
His thoughts are mostly good and clean - out fishin'  
He does not knock his fellowmen, or harbor any grudges then,  
A feller's at his finest when - out fishin'.

A feller's glad to be a friend - out fishin'.  
A helpin' hand he'll always lend - out fishin',  
The brotherhood of rod and line,  
An' sky and stream is always fine,  
Men come real close to God's design - out fishin'.

A feller isn't plottin' schemes - out fishin',  
He's only busy with his dreams - out fishin',  
His liv'ry is a coat of tan, his creed - to do the best he can;  
A feller's always mostly man, - out fishin'.

---

#### CONSERVATION NOTES

Reports from all over the Province show that the enthusiastic angler has reason to be happy this season. Fishing has been good in most waters, and the variety of fish available has lent zest to the sport. Good fishing however, is not a matter of accident, but is the result of suitable conservation laws and proper methods of fish culture.

There are few secluded spots that are not now available to the angler because of our modern methods of transportation, and this has resulted in a very large increase in the numbers of those who find their chief seasonal pleasure in fishing. This massed attack by battalions of anglers, added to the waste which results from both natural and unnatural causes would soon mean a serious depletion of the fish in our lakes and streams if we did not have suitable protective measures to safeguard the supply. Streams and lakes must be kept unpolluted. Fishing must of necessity be prohibited at



certain times of the year, and even for a period of years in certain places in order to take care of natural development and restoration. Without closing the waters entirely to fishing, natural development will not take care of the supply under present conditions, so it is necessary to propagate by artificial means, and plant new supplies of fish in most waters from time to time.

This work of propagation and planting would be in vain without the co-operation of the public and the elimination of certain harmful and unsportsmanlike methods of taking fish. The Game and Fisheries Laws contain the measures necessary for the proper protection of our various species of fish and must be observed if the efforts of the Department to ensure a supply in perpetuity are to be successful.

If you fish, or are interested in fishing, make yourself familiar with the laws in connection therewith, with particular reference to seasons, creel limits and size limits. These are not intended to restrict your pleasures but are to ensure that your children will be able to enjoy the same recreational opportunities that have been your privilege.











# ONTARIO MONTHLY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
GAME AND FISHERIES



OCTOBER 1936

*10-20-36 (all birds)  
10-20-36 (all birds)*



## MONTHLY BULLETIN

Department of Game and Fisheries  
Toronto Ontario

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, Minister in charge of Department,	Published to stimulate interest in the conservation of the Wild Life Natural Resources of the Province of Ontario.
D. J. Taylor,	Deputy Minister.

---

The amount of interest shown in the first issue of the Bulletin has been very gratifying. Its publication has a very definite purpose as set forth above and elaborated upon in the previous issue.

In addition it is intended as a means of contact between the sportsmen and the Department, so that a spirit of co-operation, which is so essential to success in any endeavour, may be developed through a better understanding of our mutual problems and ideals.

The programme of the Department, so far as the sportsmen are concerned, is summed up in the phrase "Better Hunting and Fishing", and its activities are concentrated on this ideal. The success of the work depends in large measure on the backing of the sportsmen.

Individual, and organized effort along conservational lines will result in an enlightened public opinion powerful enough to deter the poacher, shame the petty lawbreaker, and curb unnecessary waste.

### AN EXPLANATION

Several readers have written reminding us that they have not yet received the September issue of the Bulletin. As a reason for this we would explain that while the first Bulletin was dated August it was not possible to have the issue completed until early in September, and as a consequence it was not convenient to produce another in September.





Although every effort was made by the Department prior to the opening of the deer season last year to clarify the regulations in connection therewith it became obvious from letters and newspaper clippings received after the close of the season that some confusion still existed as to an interpretation of the regulations. As an example of the misunderstanding which existed we quote from a newspaper clipping received late last November from an interested correspondent.

"The law in question claims that for every single doe shot, three bucks must be slain. In other words, if a party of hunters wish to bring a doe out of the bush with them, they must have three bucks to go with it. The catch, claim the hunters, lies in the fact that in thick bush, hunters frequently shoot does without realizing the fact. Then, they must perforce get three bucks. The result is that some parties finding themselves short of bucks have abandoned the carcasses of the extra does."

Under date of October 26th, 1935, the Department released a bulletin to the press with the object of clarifying the regulations. We reprint from that bulletin the following information.

"As there still appears to be in the minds of some of those who contemplate taking advantage of the annual deer hunting season this year some confusion as to a proper interpretation of the regulations now in existence it might be well to make some explanation."

"There is a partial buck law in effect which provides that the shooting of does or fawns is prohibited except that any party of four hunters is entitled to one doe or fawn,--the other three of the kill must be bucks, though unquestionably the entire kill of four deer which such party of four might take could be bucks. A party must consist of eight members before they are entitled to two does or fawns, and further two does or fawns is the limit for any party regardless of its numbers. Some would argue that it is difficult to detect the difference between a buck and a doe under certain conditions when hunting. The Department is willing to concede the possibility of mistake with the result that provision is thus made to legalize the taking of one doe or fawn by a party of four hunters, and two does or fawns by a party of eight hunters or more, and thus make allowance for what might be termed mistakes by the hunter."

"There are some who have the impression that there must be, in the case of a hunting party of say four, three bucks killed before they may legally kill a doe or fawn. This is not correct as it may so happen that a party of four, or any number less than eight might be so unfortunate during their hunt as to kill one deer only, and then possibly a doe or fawn: similarly, a party of eight or more hunters might take only two deer,-- does or fawns. In such cases as these and others in





which the parties do not complete, much less exceed, the number of animals to which their licenses would entitle them, and the number of does and fawns involved not exceeding the number they are permitted to take there could be no reasonable objection to them being in possession of the carcasses of such does or fawns and bringing them out of camp."

"Members of hunting camps who have secured camp deer licenses could legally consume a doe or fawn in camp, or in the case of a party of eight members who had two camp deer licenses, they could legally consume two does or fawns, though they would then, of course, be obliged to bring out only buck deer according to the number of licensed hunters in the party."

It is hoped the foregoing information will clear up the doubt which appears to exist regarding the proper interpretation of the present deer hunting regulation.

#### RUFFED GROUSE

There will be no open season this year on Ruffed Grouse (Partridge). Reports from Overseers and Sportsmen are to the effect that there is a general scarcity throughout the Province. This is a situation which prevails periodically, and which has been the subject of many investigations and reports.

We have been fortunate this week in obtaining a copy of a recent paper by C. H. Douglas Clarke, of the Department of Biology, University of Toronto, entitled "Fluctuations in numbers of Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa Umbellus* (Linnae) with special reference to Ontario." It is published in book form and contains over 100 pages.

The subject is treated exhaustively and in a very painstaking manner, and contains much reference matter together with a great many illustrative maps, graphs, tables, Etc.

As the subject matter is timely, as well as being up to date, we propose to summarize briefly some of the important findings quoting verbatim where necessary for greater accuracy.

To get some idea as to how the various conclusions were arrived at it is necessary to note some of the methods employed.

"The present study", says the author, "has consisted of (1) population studies and (2) examination of specimens for parasites and diseases." The compilation of records in connection with population studies was assembled through reference to "published records in a variety of books and periodicals, as well as in government reports." In add-



ition questionnaires were sent out to Sportsmen and Naturalists throughout the Province as well as in other parts of Canada, during the four years 1932-35, requesting information on the local grouse situation, and any evidence of sickness, disease or parasites. The replies to these questionnaires served to augment the written records.

"Population studies in the field", says the author, "were carried out at field stations established at various points. At each of these, insofar as possible, the following observations were made:

(1) Numbers. A Census of the spring adults was made based on breeding territories. In addition, the broods of young observed were counted so that any changes in the number of young in a given brood (the brood for a given territory) could be detected, and an average for the number of young in a brood could be made for the whole or part of the time spent at a field station.

(2) Ecological type preferences. The distribution of grouse territories in various cover types was mapped. In addition, account was taken of the vegetation and other characteristics of each territory insofar as its limits could be determined.

(3) Life History. Much general life history information was noted. In addition certain factors, especially the territorial manifestations, which were thought to be of special importance in regulating numbers, were the subject of specially detailed study."

Through a mass of detailed study and research work, too lengthy and technical to permit us, in our limited space, to reproduce, the author reaches certain conclusions which he in part summarises as follows:

"Periodically, ruffed grouse populations in Canada suffer serious diminution in numbers. These do not occur simultaneously throughout the whole country. Even in Ontario there are local differences of at least three years in the time at which diminution begins.

Such diminutions have occurred in Ontario in the following years; 1933-34 (and 1935 presumed); 1924-5; 1914-6; 1904-5-6; 1894-5; 1883-4-5; 1874.

Each diminution is preceded by comparative abundance and followed by comparative scarcity, so that the conditions of the ruffed grouse population over the sixty years for which data are available may be expressed as a periodic cycle of between nine and ten years.

Field studies made at the time of diminution showed that this took the form of a dying-off from disease, affecting chiefly young grouse, and taking place during the summer. Similar observations were made by correspondents in many parts of Canada. In a year of dying-off the number of young surviving until fall is only half that of a normal year.





In order to trace the occurrence of parasites and diseases in ruffed grouse and other grouse, two hundred specimens were examined, of which one hundred and sixty-two were ruffed grouse.

The only organism found to be significantly associated with the cyclic diminution, and compatible with its characteristics was a blood protozoan, *Leucocytozon bonasae*.

Grouse are found to be distributed in numbers throughout most of Ontario. In the greater part of the Province, cyclic mortality is the only factor limiting their numbers. In the remaining area, numbers are controlled by the activities of man, in particular through the reduction of the area of suitable woodland by clearing and, still further, by using wooded areas for grazing domestic animals."

#### IS THIS THE FIRST CONSERVATION LAW?

Speaking of a close season on Partridge, we quote herewith an article which appeared in "The Reporter", Gananoque, and which shows that even 174 years ago it was necessary to protect the Ruffed Grouse to ensure its survival.

"Mr. Frank Eames, of Hay Island, has forwarded to Mr. Harold McCarney, president of the Leeds Fish and Game Protective Association, copy of a proclamation issued by General Gage, which proves to have been Canada's first game law.

The fall of Fort Frontenac at "Cataroukouii", and of Fort Lewis at Isle Royale or Chimney Island-called by the Indians "Oracouenton", meaning "Hanging Fire" (the sun) -- brought General Thomas Gage to Montreal in 1759. During his term at the Chateau of Montreal he issued the Proclamation referred to. It is extremely probable, writes Mr. Eames, that this, being issued so early as 1762, is the first notice of the necessity for the conservation of game in Canada. Part of this information is taken from Mr. Eames' 1759 copy of the Gentleman's Magazine and from the Dominion Archives. Thus the authority is fully established and indisputably correct.

The Proclamation reads as follows:

By His Excellency Thomas Gage

March 23, 1762

Prohibition to kill Partridges

Be it known that having found it proper for the good of the Colony to assure opportunity for an increase of Partridges, which are being reduced from day to day by the pursuit of them during their mating periods. We, in consequence forbid any person of what quality and condition soever, to kill, cause to be killed, snare or tunnel Partridges



from the 15th of the present month until the 15th day of July in each year under penalty of one hundred livres, to be applied, half to the informant, and the other half to the poor of the parish in which they are killed, taken or carried."

Done and Given at,  
The Chateau of Montreal  
(Signed) "Thomas Gage."

#### OPEN SEASON FOR OTTER

The following Order-in-Council will be of interest to trappers:

"That pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1a of Section 9, of the Game and Fisheries Act, it shall be lawful to hunt, take or kill Otter in any part of Ontario, (excepting Crown Game Preserves, Provincial Parks, and such other lands on which hunting and trapping are legally prohibited) from the 1st day of November 1936, to the 28th day of February, 1937."

#### DEER SEASON IN PARTS OF BRUCE AND CARLETON COUNTIES

In addition to the seasons already provided for by the Act, the following Order-in-Council making provision for additional open seasons has been passed:

"That pursuant to the provisions of Clause (c) of subsection (1) of Section 6 of the Game and Fisheries Act, and notwithstanding the provisions of Clause (cc) of Section 7 of the Game and Fisheries Act, it shall be lawful for any person who is in possession of a License as required by subsection (1) of Section 13, of the said Act, to hunt deer in accordance with the provisions of the various subsections of Section 30 of the said Act;

- (a) In that portion of the County of Carleton lying west of the Rideau River, during the year 1936, from the 5th day of November, to the 20th day of November, both days inclusive, and
- (b) In the Townships of St. Edmunds, Lindsay, Eastnor and Albemarle in the County of Bruce, during the year 1936, from the 16th day of November, to the 21st day of November, both days inclusive."

The use of dogs for the hunting of deer during the open season in the said Townships of St. Edmunds, Lindsay, Eastnor and Albemarle in the County of Bruce is forbidden.





### THE ELK

Hunters who take advantage of the open season for deer in the Bruce Peninsula are reminded that last year a number of Elk were released on the Peninsula and have now become established there. These Elk are of course protected and must not be interfered with. We issue this warning to forestall trouble.

There is a standing reward of \$100.00 offered for information leading to the conviction of any person or persons guilty of killing any of these Elk.

The obvious precaution, and it is good advice at all times, is, make sure you know what you are shooting at before firing, it's too late afterwards to undo any indiscretion.

### A CHANCE FOR THE DEER HUNTERS TO CO-OPERATE

Each year the Department issues with the deer licenses a form of return which it asks the hunter to complete and mail to the Department as soon as possible after the close of the deer season. There are four simple questions to answer, viz:- the locality where hunting done, did you obtain a deer, its approximate weight, and whether Buck, Doe or Fawn?

In the past the number of hunters making this return has been very disappointing. Last year, for example, only about 30% of those who purchased licenses made returns. Seeking an explanation for the apparent indifference on the part of the sportsmen we came across a letter from a hunter which said in part, "A lot of boys won't make this return because they are afraid you will use the information to send tourists or others to their favourite hunting grounds. Why don't you tell them the real reason for the return"?

In the first place we would assure the hunters that the information received is confidential and absolutely no part of it is used for advertising purposes.

It is necessary that the Department should know the number of deer of both sexes killed annually, the locations where they are found in largest numbers, and the territories where they are obviously scarce, in order that suitable regulations for their conservation may be framed.



The number of deer killed annually in relation to the total herd will of necessity have an important bearing on the regulations. The total herd can only be estimated, but there is no reason why the figures of the annual kill by the hunters should not be accurate.

The locations of the kill provide a table indicating conditions of scarcity or plenty, and have a bearing on the opening or closing of the season in certain localities.

With over 20,000 hunters in the bush each fall a means is provided for obtaining reliable information of our deer herd not otherwise available. A brief reflection will convince the hunter that this information is wholly in the interest of the sport.

#### SALE OF CONFISCATED ARTICLES

Members of the enforcement staff of the Department in the performance of their duties, more particularly where violations occur, seize fishing and hunting equipment from offenders. Much of this equipment following subsequent action which may be taken is definitely confiscated and disposed of by the Department at public sales held periodically.

During the last few days of September the Department conducted one such sale of these confiscated articles. The articles which were offered in this sale included one hundred and eighty-four fire-arms of various types, -high powered rifles, twenty-twos, -both single shot and repeating varieties, as well as single-barrelled, double-barrelled, and pump shot guns. There were also nineteen pieces of fishing tackle, thirty miscellaneous articles, such as flashlights, lanterns, axes, haversacks, etc., etc., and ten lots of mixed animal traps totalling six hundred traps in all.

Approximately four hundred tenders were submitted to the Department in the three day period during which the articles were open for inspection and offered for sale, and the prices which prevailed, generally speaking, represented a very fair average.

#### "EX. RAYS"

The officials in charge of the enquiry desk at the Department Exhibit in the Exhibition had many pleasing talks with enthusiastic sportsmen interested in the display of Game and Fish. For the most part the enthusiasm was engendered by the splendid specimens of game fish





on display, particularly the trout species, and the statistical information which formed part of each exhibit.

That information was a revelation to many for it emphasized the fact that the propagation of fish is an important part of the Department's Conservation programme. The planting of 700,000 yearling speckled trout this year and the carrying over of 2,000,000 fingerlings for planting next year received very favourable comment.

Whatever the failures of the past may have been, the present policy of bigger fish seemed to inspire new enthusiasm and awaken visions of future piscatorial pleasures.

The realization of this vision of more and better fishing is contingent upon the co-operation of the fisherman, and his zeal for law observance and law enforcement.

.....

The model fish hatchery at the Exhibition was the focal point of a great deal of interest and discussion, and as we watched its many miniature taps flowing continuously day after day we were reminded of the fact that in certain districts recently there was almost a water famine, and all sources of waste were rigidly checked. This led us to soliloquise once more on the subject of waste as it applies to the output of our hatcheries.

Under normal conditions a leaky water tap will not perceptibly affect the water supply of a community, but an accumulation of leaky taps with the continuous waste involved will inevitably have its effect on the available supply. The same simile applies in connection with the fish in our lakes and streams. Individual minor law infractions do not appear serious, but even minor infractions, when compounded have the effect of upsetting "the best laid schemes" of men and nature for providing better fishing.

We admit of course that the depredations of the law breaker are not the only reason for poor fishing, or depleted waters. We could name a dozen different causes that have been advanced from time to time, but many of these are the result of industrial development, or the progress of civilization and are difficult to regulate. Many however, spring from thoughtlessness and these it is possible to control.

A few of these controllable causes are, the taking of undersize fish, exceeding the limits of catch, taking by illegal methods and during close seasons, and the destruction of young fish by careless angling methods, etc.



A moment's thought will convince the most indifferent that waste and want are closely allied, and that even a most intensive programme of propagation and restoration will not succeed if hampered by extensive depredations, however minor these may appear.

.....

# NEW CROWN GAME PRESERVES

Since the publication of the last Bulletin the following additional Crown Game Preserves have been established:

<u>County</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Name</u>			
Brant	Brantford	The Paris	Crown Game Preserve		
Elgin	Aldborough	The West Lorne	"	"	"
Kent	Gore of Chatham	The Wallaceburg	"	"	"
Lambton	Moore	The Brigden	"	"	"
Lincoln	Niagara	The Niagara	"	"	"
Middlesex	Nissouri	The Thorndale	"	"	"
Nipissing Dist.	LaSalle, McAuslen, Parkman, Wyse, Osborne, Garrow, Clarkson, Poit- ras, Jocko and Eddy	The Jocko	"	"	"
Norfolk	Charlotteville	The Turkey Point	"	"	"
Norfolk & Haldimand	Woodhouse & Walpole	The Varency	"	"	"
Oxford	Oxford (East & West)	The Cedar Creek	"	"	"
Oxford	West Zorra	The Mud Branch	"	"	"
Welland	Willoughby	The Willoughby Pk.	"	"	"
Welland	Bertie	The Bertie	"	"	"
Wellington	Guelph	The Guelph	"	"	"









# ONTARIO MONTHLY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
GAME AND FISHERIES



NOVEMBER, 1936





# MONTHLY BULLETIN

Department of Game and Fisheries  
Toronto Ontario

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, Minister in charge of Department, Published to stimulate interest in the conservation of the Wild Life Natural Resources of the Province of Ontario.  
D. J. Taylor Deputy Minister.

Vol. 1.

No. 3.

In this issue of the Bulletin we have devoted considerable space to a discussion of the value of organized effort in connection with the conservation of our fish and game resources. We have also attempted, by reference to the activities of several associations, to give some indication of the effective work that may be accomplished by sportsmen in the interest of sportsmen.

The success of an association depends to a large extent on the enthusiasm of its officers. If the leaders are active, wide awake and keenly interested in the principles for which the association stands, there is no fear as to the success of the organization. Enthusiasm is contagious particularly if well directed.

A great many associations are wrecked on the shoals of inactivity. Enthusiasm will not be satisfactorily maintained by yearly meetings. It is essential to the success of an organization that meetings be held as frequently as possible, particularly during the off seasons for fishing and hunting, and that these meetings should be made as interesting and attractive as possible. Rural associations sometimes feel handicapped in this respect, and yet the social and educational possibilities available to the country are in no way inferior to those in the urban centres. The very fact that an association meets regularly will be a perpetual reminder to the members that the problem of better hunting and fishing can only be solved through co-operation and co-operation entails a knowledge of the conservation movement, which organized effort will do much to stimulate.

.....

Within the past month the following new associations have been formed:

North East Grey Fish and Game Protective Association,	Meaford
South East Grey Fish and Game Protective Association,	Flesherton
South Grey and Bruce Fish and Game Protective Association,	Hanover
The Lakeshore Gun and Game Protective Association,	New Toronto
The Muskoka Lakes Game and Fish Protective Association,	Bracebridge
The Central Stormont Fish and Game Protective Association,	Finch

.....

Will Secretaries kindly advise us of any changes in the executive officers of their associations, so that we can keep our records up to date. Mark communications "BULLETIN."



## ORGANIZE, OR JOIN A SPORTSMENS' ASSOCIATION

Says a recent writer; "For great sport, for the fellowship of good scouts whose hobbies are the same as yours, and for an organized and unified influence on conservation in your community organize, or join a sportsmens' organization."

The fall and winter are the seasons of greatest activity among the sportsmens' associations. During these periods the fishing equipment is carefully stored away and with the close of the fall hunting outdoor activities are more or less spasmodic. The between season lull gives ample opportunity for the sportsmen to get together and plan these organized activities which are so essential to the perpetuation of the sport.

The work of the Game and Fish Protective Associations has become so well known and their usefulness so apparent that there is no question as to the place they occupy in the sphere of game and fish conservation. An association however, serves a great many useful purposes in addition to the work it does in connection with local hunting and fishing activities.

An obvious result of the gathering together of any group or organization of men to discuss measures for the benefit of all, will be a spread of knowledge resulting in a more enlightened type of citizen, and incidentally a better community to live in. A sportsmens' organization accomplishes these things, and, while it is concerned with the conservation of fish and game throughout the Province, it is primarily interested in seeing that everything possible is done to ensure satisfactory local conditions.

It also serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas leading to a larger measure of enjoyment of those recreational pleasures which the twin sports afford.

Most clubs hold regular meetings throughout the greater part of the year. These meetings are educational, instructive and social. Local problems are discussed and measures for their adjustment devised; addresses by those competent to do so are arranged for, and these cover a wide range of subjects of definite interest to sportsmen, while the "friendship of kindred minds" engendered by these "get together" meetings is really worth while. The extent to which the social side is developed depends, of course, upon the organization itself, but active officers will see that it is not overlooked.

Planned outings for fishing and hunting are always a source of pleasure to those who take part in them. Skeet shooting activities, instructions in fly and bait casting, etc. are features which will serve to intensify the interest in hunting and fishing besides ensuring a larger measure of skill in both sports. Skill in operation means satisfaction in accomplishment.





An active association, constructive in its efforts and progressive in its ideals, will not only be of very great value to the community but will also render much assistance to the Department in the work of improving hunting and fishing conditions throughout the Province. That assistance is largely educational based on the idea that knowledge of life history and prevailing conditions will result in a larger measure of co-operation and a wider application of the ethics of sportsmanship as applied to fishing and hunting.

The wild life resources of the Province are a priceless heritage given to us as a perpetual trust. That legacy is ours to use wisely but not to dissipate. Depleted waters and lack of game in forest and field are the result of abuse, coupled with industrial conditions, destructive of natural habitat and development. The latter we can assist in adjusting, the former is within our power to control. To safeguard this heritage requires co-operation and this is best accomplished by means of organized effort.

The benefits of organization are further stressed in the fact that local associations know the local situation as it affects field and stream and are in a position to make such constructive recommendations and suggestions to the Department as will assist in improving conditions. They can also materially assist in the work of planting and restocking by co-operating with the Department in carrying out this necessary work. Such service is of vital importance to the community and shows the need for collective responsibility.

From the standpoint of the Department of Game and Fisheries it is obvious that it is easier and more advantageous to co-operate through a local association provided it is active and representative, than through a number of isolated individuals. The former should be the mouthpiece of united and considered opinion, while individual effort, though very desirable, frequently results in controversy because of the personal opinions involved.

We believe that the work of the Protective Associations throughout the Province is of very great value, and are therefore anxious to encourage the organization and development of these associations wherever possible. The fact of membership in a Fish and Game Protective Association implies good sportsmanship, and good sportsmanship is the key to a liberal enjoyment of those healthful pleasures which are our heritage.

"Organize, or join a Sportsmens' Association."  
.....

#### CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN GREY AND BRUCE

Last week the writer assisted Dr. N. K. Douglas, President of the Grey and Bruce Game and Fish Protective Association, to organize new branches at Meaford, Flesherton and Hanover. The enthusiasm of the President of this organization for fish and game conservation is only exceeded by the untiring energy he displays in the pursuit of his hobby.



The Counties of Grey and Bruce have been effectively organized into districts and the slogan of the association, "to promote in the Counties of Grey and Bruce 'where nature really excels', a hunting ground of plenty and a fisherman's paradise" bids fair to become an accomplished fact.

Speaking of efficiency the President had this to say at one of his meetings; "Co-operation without efficiency would not lead to worthwhile results. This is illustrated very nicely in one comparison of present day conditions and those of say ten years ago. At that time we old timers of fish propagation used to meet the late C.N.R. train at 11.30 p.m. and get our small fingerlings in containers similar to cream cans. The small fish had travelled some 200 miles and were far from the peak of good condition. We travelled through the night to our streams then neutralized temperatures and planted our fish by lantern light. The chance of survival was very small indeed. Consider please our present equipment. Our modern hatchery where good healthy trout of 7 inches and over are produced; our modern trucks and containers distributing fish from this and other hatcheries; the specially trained men to look after depositing of these better fish. All these items spell efficiency and are the back-bone of possible success."

To the new organizations the Doctor vouchsafed this excellent advice:

"1. Get well organized with good working live wires. Men who are interested and will not fall down on the job. This is a great hobby but it needs diligent attention.

2. Make a list of your game and fish areas. In the case of speckled trout waters, try to have all these open for stocking and public fishing.

3. Study these areas and systematically keep recording the temperatures and conditions of your streams.

4. Make a continuous raid on the enemies of game and fish life.

5. Practice conservation and try to promote this principle in others.

6. Become better equipped with the education necessary to carry on. Lecturers on a variety of subjects are readily available.

7. By reforestation and other methods promote the best possible natural conditions.

8. Work hand in hand with the parent association in the matter of applications and questions pertaining to the district."

.....

#### OTTAWA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

We have just received a copy of the report of President G. P. Gordon of the Ottawa Fish and Game Association for the year 1935-36. It is a clear and concise statement of the activities of the association during the period covered, and as an incentive to other organizations we quote extracts therefrom.

"If the financial position of the association can be taken as a criterion of its health and activity, by that measure we have made progress during last year. At the commencement of the period we had an unencumbered balance on hand of \$100.29 at the end of the period it is \$140.29."





"If an indication of strength and virility is indicated by membership, we may congratulate ourselves on our position and the progress we have made. At the close of the previous year our membership stood at 191; at the end of the year just closed it had reached a total of 395."

Commenting on the report of the entertainment committee Mr. Gordon continues; "This phase of our activities was greatly extended last year. However, I think the name of this committee is a misnomer. It is, in fact, much more a committee on education than entertainment. Entertainment should be merely the vehicle through which education is conveyed. This association, to my mind, if it is worth while and effective, should bend its efforts towards protection and conservation rather than mere sporting and pleasure activities. Towards this end many more entertainment (and therefore educational) meetings were held. The best possible speakers were secured on subjects of value and interest to the association, and at each meeting several interesting reels of motion pictures were shown. We owe a debt of gratitude to both the Federal and the Provincial Governments for the assistance extended to us in those connections."

"Your executive during the year arranged also for several speakers at meetings of the younger generation, under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A."

Mr. Gordon continues by reciting the activities of the association in connection with restocking of fish and game birds, casting practice and tournament in connection therewith, and voices the appreciation of the association to Mr. Leach, the Game Overseer for "his untiring efforts in carrying out his duties."

.....

#### A VARIED PROGRAMME

The Toronto Angler's Association is a very progressive organization. It has recently sent out a questionnaire to members of the association suggesting that if sufficient members are interested it will complete arrangements to inaugurate a Hand Craft division as a branch of the Association. This in addition to the regular programme of normal activities.

The programme of this branch would consist of instruction in the following arts:

FISHING - Rod making, varnishing, winding etc., fly tying, lure making, etc.

HUNTING - Guns, Decoys, Boats, Hides, etc.

CAMERA WORK - Proper use of an exposure meter, effect of light and shade on outdoor work.

KNITTING - New and old wrinkles in equipment, or what the well dressed fishermen may wear.

FURNITURE - Ideas for comfort in the fishing club, or hunting lodge, or your own den at home, mounting of fish specimens, etc.

TOURNAMENT CASTING - (and How) -



We were visiting Baptiste Lake last summer and were agreeably surprised to find a fair sized poster containing some excellent advice tacked up at available points all around the lake. We print it here, not because the ideas are new, but to emphasize the valuable work that is being done by associations, in the interest of conservation. We congratulate the Baptiste Game and Fish Protective Association on its initiative.

IF YOU WANT GOOD BASS FISHING

P R O T E C T   T H E   F I S H

THE BAPTISTE GAME AND FISH PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION REQUEST YOUR CO-OPERATION  
IN THE FOLLOWING:

1. DON'T BE A FISH KILLER.

You only spoil your own future pleasure unless of course your pleasure lies in the actual killing rather than the good fight that a game fish puts up.

A true sportsman always admires his opponent's fight and a good fight is what gives the thrill - Why kill a game fighter?

On the level isn't it a rather poor trick to kill every fighting bass that has just given you a lot of pleasure? Besides, they grow bigger if you throw 'em back-and the sons take after the old man if he is allowed to breed 'em.

2. KEEP JUST ENOUGH FOR FOOD AND LET THE REST GO.

Never mind the 6 limit-200 people on the lake killing 6 bass per day during a 100 day season is 120,000 bass per year-and that's a lot of anything.

3. WET YOUR HANDS BEFORE YOU HANDLE A LIVE FISH TO THROW IT BACK.

4. KILL THE NATURAL BASS KILLERS - IF YOU MUST KILL.

Wall eyes, Snakes, Turtles, Suckers.

5. BASS BETWEEN 2 1/2 LBS. AND 4 LBS. ARE THE BEST BREEDERS.

They are also the best fighters - they are not record fish - Why kill them?

6. KEEP THEM ALIVE.

If you must take your fish back to the dock to show:

A. Use a stringer thru the lips and keep them  
in the water as much as possible.

B. Have a "live box" at the dock.

C. A fish-well in the boat is an ideal life-saver.



## PELEE ISLAND

The situation on Pelee Island is so unique in the annals of pheasant hunting that it has created a great deal of interest and comment both in Canada and the United States. This article reveals the introduction of the pheasant to the island and its extraordinary development during a brief period of years.

Pelee Island is situated in Lake Erie off Essex County, about fifteen miles from Kingsville and Leamington and directly opposite the town of Sandusky in Ohio. It is approximately nine miles long and four miles wide. A Township Council presides over the destinies of the island, and the number of roads interspersing the area bear witness to the fact that facilities for its industrial activities have been well provided for. These activities are mostly agricultural, the principal crop being tobacco.

As the island is somewhat low lying an extensive system of drainage canals and ditches has been built to take care of surplus water. These are now grown up with bush, grass, weeds and vines, providing food and cover of the finest sort for pheasants. Crops of tomatoes, corn etc. are of course not immune from the ravages of the birds.

According to reliable information the pheasants were introduced to the island in 1927, the original stock consisting of about 24 birds, being shipped in from Ohio, through the courtesy of the Governor of the State. From 1927 to 1931 the birds were protected by close seasons. By 1932 however, they had become so numerous that it was found desirable to provide an open season. The first open season was for a period of three days, and was restricted to permanent residents of the island. The bag limit was six per season. Despite the open season the birds continued to multiply and in 1933 the residents were granted another two day open season with the bag limit fixed at five per day.

The island covert proved to be a natural habitat for this class of bird. The kill during the two day season merely sufficed to clean out the worklings. Propagation was so rapid that the birds became a pest, and the farmers began complaining loudly about the destruction to crops and urging that something be done to thin out the birds.

In 1934 The Hon. H. C. Nixon, Minister of Game and Fisheries and D. J. Taylor, Deputy Minister visited the island and viewed the situation. After consultation with the Township authorities an arrangement was arrived at which provided for two open seasons of two days each, both of which were to be open to the public. As a measure of compensation for damage done by the birds, the municipality was authorized to charge a license fee of two dollars (\$2.00) per season from each non-resident hunting on the island. The situation on the island had received a great deal of publicity and the response by non-resident sportsmen to the invitation of the open season was very heavy. The bag limit was set at four per day, and significant of the situation was the intimation that "two of the four may be hens." Thousands of birds fell to the guns of the hunters, while the treasury of the municipality was considerably enriched by the license fee which it exacted. This first general shoot provided excellent copy for the newspapers and the fame of Pelee Island as a paradise for pheasants became firmly established.





It may not be out of place to remark that prior to the holding of this open shoot arrangements had tentatively been made for the municipality to trap several hundreds of the birds after the open season, and ship them to the Department for release on the mainland. Compensation for this was provided for in the arrangement. However, the shoot was such a success from a financial standpoint, that the residents changed their ideas about getting rid of the birds, and determined to capitalize on the situation, so no birds were shipped to the mainland.

Notwithstanding the thousands of birds that were killed during the open season of 1934 the stock had not been seriously impaired and the production during 1935 was heavy enough to justify another two day season, with a bag limit of six per day (two hens). On this occasion the municipality charged non-residents a fee of three dollars (\$3.00) for the privilege of shooting on the island. The influx of sportsmen was heavier than on the previous occasion and the accommodation of the island was taxed to capacity to take care of them. Probably close to 10,000 birds were killed during the two days and the result established the island as the premier pheasant shooting territory on the Continent.

The result of the 1936 shoot is now a matter of record. There were two open seasons of two days each and the bag limit was reduced to five per day (two hens). During the two open seasons about 1,150 sportsmen took part in the shoot and took from the island approximately 11,000 birds. A number of hunters spent only one day on the island. The newspaper reports of the shoot were very graphic and made the most of a unique situation. It is admitted however that despite the thousands of birds that were killed, there are still thousands left and no diminution in the crop is anticipated.

In some quarters fears were expressed that the number of birds wounded or killed and not recovered would be very high. To find out, as nearly as possible, the actual situation, the Department instructed two of its Overseers to comb the island with dogs after the final shoot and pick up all birds not recovered by the hunters. Five crack dogs were used and a thorough comb of the island resulted in one man recovering 9 birds, the other 11, while signs that probably 25 more had been eaten by predators were noted. Making due allowance for any overlooked it would seem that less than one per cent of the birds killed or badly wounded were recovered by the hunters. The economic value of the pheasant situation on the island is becoming of increasing importance to the residents. In addition to the tax collected by the municipality from each hunter there is the matter of accommodation for 1,200 or more guests, transportation to and from the island and motoring facilities on the island. This is how it works. We quote from an interview with Mr. H. W. Hunsberry in the St. Catharines Standard. "A farmer having two hundred acres, by reason of the pheasant shoot and the revenue therefrom, had his taxes reduced by one hundred dollars this year. Moreover he had ten hunters at his home which netted him another hundred dollars. Two of his boys who had motor cars made a nest-egg of fifty dollars. This case is typical."

There are many reasons for the extraordinary development of the pheasant on Polce Island. In the first place it is natural pheasant country with an abundance of food and cover. Being an island and fifteen miles from the mainland the birds are confined to a definite area. The location of the



island ensures a moderate climate, particularly during the winter season. The pheasant is a very prolific breeder and given reasonable care and protection, will rapidly increase in numbers. There are few predatory birds or animals on the island.

This in brief is the story of the pheasant situation on Pelee Island. What threatened to be a pest has become a source of revenue. What was begun as an experiment has developed beyond expectation and sound judgment has capitalized on the result. "Pelee Island", to quote from the Cleveland Press, "has no parallel in North America for quantity of birds and ease of hunting."

#### "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING"

"Startled" would probably be a good title for the Bulletin cover drawing this month. It could also be used to describe our feelings when we came across the following headline, over a news item, in a recent issue of the Globe; "Hunters kill six tame deer on Guelph Farm." It is a highly coloured story of the alleged depredations of some unscrupulous persons and the righteous indignation of the farmer whose herd of eighteen tame deer had been depleted by the slaughter of six of their number.

A story of that sort usually demands investigation and whenever possible the Department endeavours to discover the facts. On this occasion an inspector visited the farmer, as a result of the news item, and investigated the story. His report puts an entirely different complexion on the matter and once more emphasizes the fact that a vivid imagination can cause a great deal of unnecessary worry.

The impression given by the article in question is that this particular farmer had eighteen tame deer in an enclosure and that six of these were ruthlessly slaughtered by hunters. As a matter of fact the farm is not enclosed, there are no tame deer, and what deer there may be in the immediate vicinity are free to roam the whole countryside. The suggestion that the deer are the offspring of two fawns brought from the north and raised on cows milk is a myth.

The farmer told the inspector he had found the carcass of one deer which had not been shot but appeared to have been injured. He also claimed to have seen one deer which seemed to have been injured. He had not seen or heard of any being killed, but by reason of the fact that men with dogs are frequently hunting over the land he thought there must have been six deer killed during the last three years. Whether or not there are eighteen deer in the swamp is problematical as that number have not been seen in a group, and the same deer may have been counted repeatedly.

We believe the farmer when he says he fed some deer on his property last winter, and commend him for his interest in them. A great many farmers throughout the Province do the same thing and take a great deal of pleasure out of seeing the deer around. We also appreciate his point of view which makes him dislike having hunters with dogs shooting over his land, because he feels "they are out to get the deer." Unfortunately some hunters are very inconsiderate of the farmer's rights and by their lack of courtesy





create an antagonism on the part of the landowner towards the sportsmen which is to be deplored. This antagonism undoubtedly inspired the suggestion that "probably six deer had been killed", and the suggestion blossomed into a colorful story void of fact, and which aroused the ire of decent sportsmen. Stories of depredations by poachers are numerous and unfortunately are frequently justified by facts. For this reason we are glad to contradict this particular story.

.....

#### THE BLUE GEESE AT NIAGARA FALLS

Overseer A. R. Muma of Chippawa contributes the following interesting material on the migration of the blue goose by way of the Niagara River: "For the first time in the history of the blue geese they migrated through south eastern Ontario on October 27, 1935. Large flocks totalling about 10,000 lit upon the waters of the upper Niagara River. Most authorities believed they were directed on that course by weather conditions, and never expected to see them again, but October 13, 1936, found them here once more. It now seems probable that their migration route may have changed. They are very interesting to study. Those that are picked up after going over the Falls and revived are very tame and not as afraid of humans as one would expect. They will eat from the hand in a few hours' time. They are very easily domesticated and readily make friends with other water fowl. Contrary to what some would have us believe there are very few casualties caused by the Falls, only the odd one going over. When they are ready to continue their flight southward they leave the water in small flocks apparently headed by the old ganders who return from time to time and start another flock on their way. The sportsmen and people who love wild life have taken a great interest in these birds, consequently they are given real protection while in the district, even although it is open season on them."

.....

#### MORAL SUASION

Overseer R. G. Sheppard of Gananoque in a report to the Department relates the following which shows good judgement on the part of the officer concerned. It also emphasizes the fact that an appeal to a man's honour will often times accomplish more than a resort to force.

"Close to the International boundary but in Provincial waters the Overseer noticed a non-resident fishing party in charge of a guide. When the approach of the officer was observed it was evidently arranged that the only one on board without a license was to appear as not having been fishing. On coming alongside their boat the Overseer noticed an extra rod lying on the floor with a live minnow on the hook. The minnow was still flopping. The one member of the party not fishing sat in a large chair reading a paper. When questioned he took a very pompous attitude and indignantly denied use of the rod. The guide knew he was in danger of having his license cancelled, but with the support of the entire party the officer was in danger of coming off second best. The non fisherman extolled his own virtues and his home standing socially, but the officer was quite unimpressed. Finding the die cast against



him the officer appealed to the man's sense of honour to decide for him whether or not he required an angling license and retired for a short distance to observe the result of his strategy. In a few minutes the man was seen to fling down his paper, the guide pulled up the anchor and the boat proceeded to the nearest port where licenses were sold. As soon as the Overseer might cautiously do so, he too proceeded to the said port and there he was gratified to find the man's name, newly inscribed, on the books of the license issuer."

.....

#### DUCK SEASON CLOSES NOVEMBER 30TH.

Sportsmen are once more reminded that the season for ducks and geese in Northern Ontario closed on November 15th, and that the season in all of the territory south of the French and Mattawa Rivers closes November 30th.

It should be noted that while the Game and Fisheries Act, as published, permits an extended season in the Counties of Wentworth, Lincoln, and the Counties fronting on Lake Erie this regulation has been superseded by Federal Regulations fixing the closing date in these areas as November 30th.

.....

#### TRAPPING MICE

The youth referred to in this incident reported by Overseer Crichton of Chapleau was either very inexperienced or his sense of humour was somewhat misplaced. Haled into court for allegedly trapping without a license, he told the Magistrate he was going back into the bush, (a distance of seven miles, and with No. 1 and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  traps,) "to trap mice" !

Which reminds us of the little boy who stopped suddenly at the Department exhibit of pelts in the Exhibition and pointing to the Weasel (Ermine) pelts exclaimed, "Mummy look at the white mice."

.....









ONTARIO  
MONTHLY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
GAME AND FISHERIES



DECEMBER, 1936



MONTHLY BULLETIN

Department of Game and Fisheries  
Toronto Ontario

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary,  
Minister in charge of Department.

Published to stimulate interest  
in the conservation of the Wild  
Life Natural Resources of the  
Province of Ontario.

D. J. Taylor Deputy Minister.

Vol. 1.

No. 4.

As this is the last Bulletin for the present year we believe we cannot do better than direct your attention in retrospect to a few of the privileges we enjoy as sportsmen and citizens of the Province. Many will look back with pleasant memories to a few hours, days or weeks, of healthy, happy sport on some lake or stream. The fascination of the great outdoors, the lure of combat with a gamey bass, a cunning trout or a hard fighting muskie, the skill in casting and the contentment of mind which is a part of the sport, these are some of the charms which make fishing one of the finest recreational pleasures available to the sportsman.

Others will recall with pleasure many happy incidents while engaged in the pursuit of game in forest or field. In large measure hunting presents the same attractive possibilities and healthful recreation as fishing. The fascination of the chase, the baying of the hounds, the anticipation, the realization, the inspiration of nature and the things of nature, and afterwards the companionship of good fellows in shack or cabin, these in part provide allurements which it is hard to resist.

It is impossible to recall these pleasant memories without realizing that we, the citizens of the Province and our tourist guests, are highly privileged in the facilities afforded us for enjoying our favourite sport. Almost every variety of game and fish is available, there is freedom from unnecessary restrictions and the scenic beauty of the Province is surpassed or equalled by few other countries. As the New Year approaches those of us who are accustomed to make New Year Resolutions might well include a few pertaining to our favourite sport, for example:-

1. RESOLVED - that I will protect the rights of my fellow sportsmen by observing the various regulations governing the taking of game and fish, realizing that any excessive or illegal taking on my part lessens the opportunity of others to secure the fair share that rightfully belongs to every citizen.
2. That I will by precept and example endeavour to spread the ideals of conservation and the ethics of sportsmanship with a view to eliminating illegal practices.
3. That I will respect the rights of property owners and seek by courtesy and co-operation to retain the good will of the farmer so that the existing liberties of the sportsmen may not be impaired.





4. That I will assume a personal responsibility for the protection of our wild life resources so that my children will be assured of the same recreational privileges that I have enjoyed.

5. That I will encourage all organized effort that has for its object the protection of game and fish and also co-operate with the Department of Game and Fisheries to that end.

.....

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROTECTIVE SERVICE

The protection of game and fish in the Province of Ontario may be classified for reference purposes into three periods, (1) From Confederation to the appointment of the Game and Fish Commission in 1892, (2) Administration by the Game and Fish Commission from 1892 to 1905, (3) Under the Department of Game and Fisheries from 1905 to the present time.

During the first phase of the administration of the game laws the authority was vested in the Commissioner of Crown Lands. It is obvious that during this period no organized attempt was made to provide warden service for the enforcement of the game laws. The municipalities were endowed with power to provide such a service but few of them took advantage of their authority. Enforcement of law observance depended for the most part on private informers who received a part of the fine as compensation for their vigilance. Because enforcement was the duty of no one in particular very few prosecutions were instituted, and the law breaker had full scope for his nefarious practices. Speaking at a meeting of an International Committee held in Rochester on November 10th, 1891, Mr. A. D. Stewart who was then Secretary of the Ontario Game and Fish Commission which was engaged in holding an enquiry into the game and fish situation in the Province said "Our Wardens are paid a nominal salary of forty dollars a year, and not wishing to incur the ill-will of neighbors, they very wisely pocket the forty dollars a year and do nothing. There is no protection, and it simply arises from the fact that it has been everybody's business and nobody's business in particular to enforce the laws." Notwithstanding the lack of enforcement we are assured by the Special Committee on the Game situation 1931-33, and referring to this period, that "The body of the Game Laws, however, was as sound as in other Provinces and States."

The Commission appointed in 1891 to enquire into the game and fish situation reported in 1892, and, with certain changes in personnel, became a permanent Commission to administer the Game and Fisheries Laws. Among other things the Commission recommended "that a Provincial force of Game and Fish Wardens or Protectors should be established." They further recommended "that the Sub-Wardens should be permanent residents of the localities under their supervision, because they are intimately acquainted with the game districts and the residents of the neighbourhood, and would naturally hear more of what was going on than a stranger could possibly do." It is clear that during the administration of the Commission considerable progress was made in law enforcement. A force of permanent and part time wardens was appointed and considering the extent



of the territory covered, made considerable progress in the enforcement of the Act.

In 1905 the Commission of Management gave place to a new Department of Government known as the Department of Game and Fisheries. During the administration of this Department considerable development has taken place in the protective service, as well as in the character of the laws. At the present time there are 76 full time Overseers. In addition the work of enforcement is augmented by the services of the Provincial Police. An auxiliary force of 947 Deputy Game Wardens also renders valuable assistance. These men work without remuneration, inspired wholly by their desire to protect our wild life resources. They perform a very useful service and their presence throughout the Province has a moral effect which tends to curb law breaking. Other auxiliary forces doing valuable work are the Protective Associations and the Press.

#### THE WORK OF ENFORCEMENT

The primary function of the Department of Game and Fisheries is to administer the Game and Fisheries Laws which are enacted to protect our wild life resources. Each section of the Act has a definite purpose whether it be the regulation of commercial fishing, the protection of the fur industry or the control exercised over sportsmen in their own interests, and having in mind the best methods of conserving the available resources. While the Department is making every effort to ensure observance of the Act, through means of Education and Publicity, it is still necessary to prosecute from time to time those who wilfully or negligently fail to observe the regulations.

It will probably be news to those interested in the wild life of the Province that during the twelve months ending on November 30th, last, a total of 1,011 prosecutions were instituted before the Courts of the Province for violations of the Game and Fisheries Act, and our officers were successful in getting convictions in 952 cases. It will be noted from these figures that we are not only receiving the co-operation of the various Magistrates throughout the Province, but that few cases are taken before the courts without sufficient evidence to convict. The fines assessed as a result of these prosecutions amounted to over \$11,500.00 and ranged in amounts of from \$1.00 to \$740.00. In lieu of paying a fine, 91 persons took alternative jail sentences ranging from 1 day to 3 months. The prosecution of offenders is the unpleasant part the Department must play in the administration of the Game and Fisheries Act. Unpleasant as it is however, it is nevertheless very essential.

While each officer is required to be impartial and efficient in the carrying out of his duties he is also required to use common sense and courtesy in his treatment of the public. In this respect we would like to express a word of appreciation by saying that we believe these virtues are exemplified by the average field officer in the discharge of his duties. On their behalf and as proof of this, we would like to quote part of a letter recently received from one of our non-resident hunters. It is but one of many the Department receives from time to time



acknowledging the courtesy of the average Game and Fisheries Officer.

The letter is dated November 25th, 1936, and is in part as follows:

"I cannot refrain from referring to the marked degree of courtesy experienced when one has anything to do with Canadian Officials. I would even go so far as to say that when one gets on this side of the Peace Bridge the change is quite noticeable. Some distance north of Toronto we were held up by two of your officers and our game record and licenses examined, as was proper, but all of it was done with such perfect courtesy that the experience, so far from being unpleasant, strongly inclined the hunter to co-operate to the fullest possible extent. The fact that a day before a group of American Sportsmen had been caught in a bunch of lies, without sufficient hunting licenses, and had parts of one deer sewed inside the carcass of another, indicated that underneath the courtesy there was no lack of efficiency.

It is no wonder that 99 per cent of American Sportsmen who go to Canada feel about it as I do. Out of many years of this sort of thing has come my association with Rod and Gun and my sense of gratitude has urged me to write for it without compensation as some small return for the good times and treatment I have experienced in Canada."

#### SHOOTING of EAGLES and OSPREY'S PROHIBITED

The irrespressible boy with a .22 rifle and the irresponsible hunter with a fire-arm of any kind are the bugbear of the Protective Officers. The former believes all wild life that flashes across his vision is legitimate prey; the latter knows better but his knowledge is no deterrent to his lust for slaughter. There is some excuse for the boy. The conservation of our wild life resources has not, until recently been seriously brought to his attention, and the laws in connection therewith have to him always been more or less obscure. There is absolutely no excuse for the adult hunter.

All this is merely preliminary to stating that certain hunters, youthful and adult, do not yet appear to know that Eagles and Ospreys are protected by law. Several cases of Eagles being shot have occurred recently and the incidents have been given a great deal of publicity.

In each of these cases the Department has made an investigation in an attempt to establish the circumstances and take whatever action was deemed advisable. Of four cases investigated recently, two have been prosecuted, a conviction being obtained in one while decision in the other is pending. In a third case the circumstances were such that no action was deemed advisable, while investigation in the fourth case is still being carried on. It is a well known axiom of law that "ignorance is no excuse" so we advise hunters to make themselves familiar with the physical characteristics of these birds and carefully avoid their destruction.





## CO-OPERATION

Canadian Sportsmen are richly blessed, not only by reason of the fact that game of all kinds in the Dominion is fairly abundant, but also because our democratic ideals make possible a degree of freedom to enjoy the sport of hunting not possible to our brother Sportsmen in European Countries, including Great Britain. This freedom however, is ours not by right, but through the good will of our good neighbors, the farmers and landowners generally. Recently there has been a disposition to forget this fact, particularly on the part of the irresponsible type of hunter whose ideas of what constitute the ethics of good sportsmanship are at a low ebb. Property rights have not been respected, and privileges have been abused. As a consequence a spirit of resentment is springing up which threatens to curtail those recreational pleasures we have enjoyed for generations, through closing off the facilities which are essential to the sport.

With the growth of Sportsmen's Associations throughout the Province, there has come a remarkable and gratifying change in the attitude of sportsmen, not only toward the game but also toward the rights of the farmer, as well as a general recognition that the sportsman and farmer have much in common. The whole constitution of our economic system depends on co-operation. The farmer needs the city man, the city man cannot exist without the farmer. The same law must operate in connection with hunting and fishing. It is quite obvious that the cause of wild life conservation and that means the perpetuation of our sport, can only be successfully promoted through the fullest co-operation between the farmer and the sportsman. This is the problem which faces the Sportsmen's Associations at the present time. It is an acknowledged fact that a large majority of hunters are sportsmen in the highest sense of the term. They not only carefully and conscientiously observe the law, but respect the rights of others. If all hunters were sportsmen there would be no farmer problem. Unfortunately in every walk of life we find black sheep, in every business and profession there are unscrupulous and dishonest persons, in every branch of social activity there are those whose ethical standards are considerably below par. The minority of non-sportsmen among hunters can, and do cause a great deal of worry to decent sportsmen through their perverted ideas of personal rights, and the thoughtless abandon with which they ride roughshod over the rights of others. There is an ownership in all property whether it be land, fences, live-stock or crops, and this proprietary right must be respected.

There are frequently conflicts of opinions as to the ownership of game. Previous to the signing of the Magna Charta by King John in 1215, all game in England was considered the property of the King and the privilege of hunting or shooting same was confined entirely to the Monarch. He could, of course, extend the privilege to his friends. On the signing of the Magna Charta the people secured many rights heretofore denied them, one of which was the transferring of the ownership of game from the King to the Crown, otherwise the people, and no individual can claim ownership until he has reduced such game to the point of possession. In the United States and throughout the British Empire this is the law of game ownership. It is clear that while the landowner cannot consider he



is the owner of the game, nevertheless he controls the taking of the game, particularly in Southern Ontario, where there are few remaining Crown Lands, through being in a position to prevent the trespass by others over his property in their efforts to obtain possession. This being the case the sportsmen of the Province, especially in Old Ontario, are almost entirely dependent on the good will of the property owners. We do not hesitate to say that the greatest enemies the sportsmen have in their relations with the property owners are the unscrupulous few who feel that the possession of a license entitles them to trespass over private property, even after objection has been raised by the landowner. One has but to imagine what his own feelings would be were he a landowner, and discovered certain so called sportsmen trespassing on his property with an air of propriety which is annoying. These individuals will shoot at pigeons with no thought as to whether they are valuable or merely of the barnyard quality, and will fire at them while the birds are resting on the steel roof of a barn, apparently ignorant or merely regardless of the fact that shot renders this class of roof almost useless. If the domestic fowl have strayed from the yard they will not hesitate to shoot them, which is but an aggravated form of theft, while incidents of live stock of various kinds being wantonly or carelessly shot are numerous. If you Mr. Sportsman had been faced with these annoyances or personal losses you would then understand the present attitude of the landowners who have been subjected to such indignities.

The Sportsman can perform no greater service for himself or his fellows than to report any infractions to the proper authorities and assist in the apprehension of the guilty. What a different attitude it would create if all those who love to hunt would at least acknowledge the rights of the landowner, preferably by obtaining his consent before going on his land, and would be careful not to break down fences, posts or gates, or leave the latter open when they should be closed. A further word of precaution, never discharge firearms where cattle are pastured or near the home of the farmer. Co-operation, common sense, and courtesy and the problem of trespass is solved.

For conservational reasons and to counteract the effects of unsportsmanlike conduct it is very necessary that the Sportsmen's Associations should seek to develop closer relations with the farmer. His hunting problems are our problems. Without his co-operation our sport is curtailed. He must be shown that sportsmen are willing and anxious to assist in the protection of his property. He knows from experience that the decent sportsman is both courteous and careful, but unless he has the co-operation of all such, how can he discriminate. Let us invite him to our meetings, and work out some plan of closer contact whereby our mutual interests will become a common cause.

#### DEER SITUATION IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO IMPROVING

The value of protective measures and close seasons in the rehabilitation of our deer herd is clearly demonstrated in the present situation in Southern Ontario. For a number of years, except for brief seasons in Grey and Bruce, the deer in that portion of the Province lying south and west of the Counties of Bruce, Grey, Simcoe and York, in





addition to the Counties of Leeds, Grenville, Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry and Carleton have been protected by a close season. The result of this conservation measure is now being revealed in reports from different sections of the area, and it is obvious from these reports, newspaper and otherwise that a great increase in the deer herd is now apparent.

Within the past few weeks we have noted the following news items in various newspapers. A deer was observed in the north end of the City of Toronto recently making an unhurried journey along Eglinton Avenue. Where it came from and whither it was going still remain a mystery. Another news item reports a fine big buck bounding out of the bush on to the middle of the road, in south Bruce and forcing a traveller to halt his car to avoid it. In the same item it is reported that another traveller while driving in his car in Huron County had the misfortune to collide with a deer, with resultant damage to his car, and minor injuries to the deer which did not prevent it making off across the fields. A further incident of a like nature is reported from north Bruce, but in this case there was no collision, although the driver had the misfortune to damage his car through stopping suddenly on the slippery pavement to avoid contact. In last month's Bulletin we referred to a news item from Wellington County wherein a farmer claimed to have eighteen deer on his farm.

The writer was in Middlesex County recently and on leaving the farm home where he had been calling discovered two fine does standing on the road not 100 feet from his car. It appeared from inquiry that deer are quite numerous in the district, in fact reports from all over that section of the Province convey the same information. From Norfolk County comes a report that deer are numerous in certain townships, farmers having reported seeing them grazing with their cattle. An eastern Overseer reports as follows; "Eleven years ago, an Order-in-Council established a close season for deer in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. At that time there were not over three or four deer in the entire County of Leeds. At the present time I would estimate the number to be over 150 or 200 in four townships alone, while other four townships have a lesser number which I would estimate at 150."

There are many other reports along the same lines all emphasizing the fact that the deer are coming back to southern Ontario, because of the protection afforded them over a period of years. Because of the heavy settlement in certain sections it is improbable that they will ever again be as numerous as they once were, nor will a cessation of the protective measures be possible until the herd has increased a great deal more than at present. Nevertheless the present situation justifies the measures now in force and once more establishes the fact that Conservation and Co-operation are the keys to success in the restoration of our wild life resources.

#### ALGONQUIN PARK

To emphasize what can be accomplished by means of the protection afforded by Game Preserves, we would draw attention to a recent case in Algonquin Park, which, because of the dramatic circumstances



surrounding it, aroused a great deal of interest. Through the co-operation of officials of the Game and Fisheries Department with the rangers in the Park, eight poachers were arrested while plying their nefarious business. Although these men had been operating for less than a month they were found to be in possession of 100 Beaver, 50 Marten and a considerable number of pelts of other fur bearing animals. While there has been some poaching from time to time in this preserved area it is obvious that furbearers and other animals will multiply quite rapidly when given reasonable protection.

#### DEER SITUATION IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

The deer situation in Northern Ontario presents many problems not encountered in the south. Among the chief of these are extreme climatic conditions, with a consequent lack of food, the wolf menace and the open season for hunting. It will be recalled that the winter of 1933-34 was a very severe one with heavy snow and a prolonged period of below zero weather resulting in a general freezing up everywhere. Cold and lack of food took a tremendous toll of the deer during that winter. As the same general conditions prevail every year at this season in varying degrees of intensity, it will be obvious that the plight of the deer in winter is not a happy one. In addition to its struggle against nature, the deer is continually menaced by its natural enemy, the wolf. This animal is one of the most destructive forces against which it has to contend. In the report of the Special Committee on the game situation in Ontario 1933, we find the following statement "No leading deer State or Province has the wolf problem in so menacing a form as Ontario. This problem of ours is shared but not alleviated by conditions both in Manitoba and Quebec, on the west and east. Our observation of the situation here obliges us to place the wolves prominent among the causes of deer destruction during the past forty years."

The Department desires and is making strenuous attempts to control the wolf through offering a bounty on every animal killed. It is clear however, that the numbers of wolves killed fluctuates regardless of cycles and bounties. When the wolf bounty was \$40.00 the average take was 2,000 per year. Due to the lack of co-operation of other States and Provinces who refused to pay the same bounty as Ontario, the Department was forced to reduce the bounty. During the years 1926-28 when the Dominion was enjoying a wave of prosperity the bounty of \$15.00 was not a big inducement to the trapper, nevertheless during these years the numbers killed increased tremendously, reaching a record high for one year of over 6,000. It would seem, therefore, that during these years either there was more intensive trapping or the cycle of abundance was at a peak. The cycle appeared to drop off again in 1933-34, or the severity of the winter made operations difficult, for the numbers destroyed got down again to the 2,000 mark. During the past two years it seems to be on the increase again as indicated by the available figures. The control of the wolf is a difficult problem because the area of the Province is very large and in much of the north country sparsely populated. This means that the pack has a wide range and limits the destructive operations that can be conducted against it. Another factor that renders the operations difficult is the cunning





of the wolf itself. Because of this highly developed instinct it is difficult to trap, and the process requires considerable experience.

Due to the heavy loss of deer during the winter of 1933-34 the Department deemed it advisable to bring in legislation that would restrict the annual kill, in order to restore the herd to normal again. That legislation took the form of a buck law with reservations intended to overcome certain difficulties that might be experienced by the hunter in carrying out the terms of the Act. The restrictions have been met by the sportsmen with many varied opinions. Those opposing it claim that many deer are illegally shot and left in the bush. This suggestion probably has some foundation in fact, but officers of the Department made extensive searches in the vicinity of camps concerning which reports were made and in few instances were deer discovered. It is true that many parties make an attempt to bring out illegal deer. Between 30 and 40 such were seized this fall and distributed to Hospitals and other charitable institutions.

The new law has not been in force long enough to justify any extensive claims of benefit to the deer herd through its operation, nevertheless the provision against the indiscriminate shooting of does and fawns together with two good winters for deer, appear to have resulted in a marked improvement in the deer population. In this respect it is interesting to note a report from an Overseer in the Rainy River district. This officer keeps a check on the number of deer and moose taken annually in his district and recently submitted the following comparative statement, covering the past three years:

Year	Moose	Deer	Bear
1934	77	218	
1935	108	322	
1936	177	444	35

The same Overseer also comments that very few does and fawns were taken out. From Timmins the Overseer reports "The Moose and Deer in this locality have increased very rapidly during the last few years." There are also favourable reports from the Nipissing district. Despite the fact that there has been an increase in the number of hunters it would appear from the various statements received that the game has also shown an increase.

#### THE JACK RABBIT

The big game season being over and the ducks having now continued their southern flight under protection of the law nothing much in the way of game is available to the hunter except the rabbit. Hundreds of sportsmen however, are enthusiastic regarding the pleasure to be obtained from this class of sport and are appreciative of the healthful recreation which pursuit of the despised "Jack" affords. It is a wily foe, swift as a greyhound and as keen as a fox. The open country over which it travels and in which it is found renders its destruction difficult unless the hunters are organized to encompass its downfall. This means an approach from all directions sandwiching the prey in between the lines of advancing





gunners. Even against such organized and frequently mass attacks its speed is a wonderful defence. While the average farmer, particularly the fruit grower looks with disfavour upon the animal, the sportsman considers it an acquisition to the game possibilities of the Province, and Ontario is the only Province that has the Jack available for the pleasure of the sportsman. The pursuit of the Jack too appears to be one occasion upon which the opposition of the farmer to the hunter on his land is not so pronounced. It is true the hunting is done at a season of the year when the least damage can be done to crops, etc., because the ground is usually frozen and covered with snow.

While this species of rabbit is commonly called the "Jack" it is in reality what is known as the European Hare. The Jack Rabbit of Western Canada while it resembles it in some respects differs greatly in others. The Canadian Jack ranges in size from four to seven pounds and like the varying Hare or Snowshoe Rabbit changes its coat in winter to blend with the snow. The European Hare on the other hand ranges in weight from about eight to sixteen pounds and retains its brownish colour throughout the year.

The origin of the "Jack" in Ontario can be readily traced to a farm near Brantford. Here apparently a number were kept in captivity until the early years of the war when through neglect of fences or otherwise they were released and have since spread in greater or lesser numbers to almost every section of south western Ontario. To the writer's knowledge, they have travelled as far north as Bruce County and as far east as Durham County. They are very prolific breeders and in many instances will produce about seven litters in a year. The usual number of young is from two to five per litter, and unlike the Snowshoe Rabbit the young are born with their eyes open and fairly well furred. The young have been found as early as February and from then to September, other litters will be born at periodic intervals. Some years ago, shortly after the Jacks had scattered throughout the district and were discovered in sufficient numbers to be hunted it was not uncommon for sportsmen to bag them from sixteen to twenty pounds in weight. During recent years however, one is rarely captured in excess of fourteen or fifteen pounds. The reason for this has not yet been satisfactorily explained. They do not burrow in the ground like the Snowshoe, and their favourite resting or hiding place is a plowed field, where the furrows afford a measure of protection. There they will lie partially covered with snow and are almost invisible until the sportsman approaches and the danger becomes obvious. For the most part they sense danger in good time and are away before the hunter comes within range. Frequently however, they hesitate too long and permit the hunter to get too close before breaking from cover, then it is bad for the Jack. They do not inhabit the swamps or wooded areas, although they will pass through them when chased by dogs, but prefer the open fields. The damage they do to wheatfields and sometimes to young fruit trees can be considerable.



### THE VALUE OF UPLAND GAME BIRDS

We believe the value to the farmer of the upland game birds is becoming more obvious as we learn more of the life history and activities of these birds. As they increase in numbers we find them being attracted to the farm lands in search of food or the protection which the long grass, weeds or shrubbery affords. These birds provide the farmer with efficient and effective service as insect killers and weed destroyers. They are the machine gunners of the agricultural industry waging a relentless war against the massed attacks of the insect battalions, and thinning the ranks of the weed menace. As an effective fighting force they are invaluable and will carry the war of control over insects and weeds to the extreme outposts where even expensive spraying machinery would not reach. To change from the militaristic to the practical however, we are informed by the Biological Survey of America that in eight months Quail in Virginia and South Carolina are estimated to have eaten 1,341 tons of weed seeds, while a day's destruction on one farm amounted to 46,000 weed seeds to the acre in twenty-four hours. The North Dakota Fish and Game Bulletin states "A single Pheasant will devour 300 grasshoppers a day, and a covey of Quail will clean the beetles from an acre of potato vines."

It is obvious therefore, that game birds on the farm are a real asset, both from the standpoint of service and that of beautifying the farm. To be effective however, they must be given consideration with regard to food and coverage, particularly in the winter when the former is difficult to obtain. But in addition to this they must be controlled against overpopulation consistent with the food available lest they, themselves, become a pest. This control is best exercised by legalized and seasonable fall shooting restricted as to season and with bag limits fixed in accordance with the birds available. This control is a matter for mutual understanding and good will between the sportsman and the farmer, because as stated elsewhere herein, the game is neither the property of the farmer nor the sportsman but with the proper spirit of co-operation is available to both.

### THE LICENSING OF TOURIST CAMPS

Recently we observed Editorials in two Toronto Newspapers advocating the licensing of tourist camps in Northern Ontario for the better protection of tourists. It will be of interest to note that this suggestion has been in practical effect for almost a year. During the 1936 Session of the Legislature such a provision was added to the Game and Fisheries Act and became effective on June 1st, 1936. The Act provides that "It Will be unlawful, except under the authority of a license, for any person to own or operate a tourist outfitters camp in that part of Ontario lying north of the Canadian National Railway line from Parry Sound to Pembroke, via Scotia, Madawaska and Golden Lake." The Act further provides that the license fee shall be \$10.00 in the case of residents, and \$25.00 in the case of non-residents. This legislation was not enacted with the idea of fur-





nishing additional revenue to the Department, but was as a matter of fact, instigated largely on the recommendation of camp and summer resort owners in the district affected. This summer, a special officer of the Department made an inspection tour of the camps in the area from Pembroke to the Manitoba boundary. His work was not of an arbitrary nature but consisted of a preliminary inspection of the camps with suggestions for their general improvement where necessary and the issuing of the camp license. In all four hundred and twenty-seven camps were licensed, eighty-three of which are situated in the district of Kenora, seventy-nine in Nipissing, seventy-four in Parry Sound, sixty-six in Algoma, thirty-eight in Sudbury, thirty-two in Manitoulin, twenty-seven in Rainy River, nineteen in Thunder Bay, seven in Renfrew County and two in Patricia district. Three hundred and eighty-eight or 91 per cent of the camps are operated by residents while the balance are operated by non-residents.

The regulation of these camps will be of a supervisory nature, while a degree of protection from undue encroachment will be afforded those who already have made large investments in the establishment of permanent camps. The licensing of these camps will also be of much assistance to the Department in the protection of the fish and game resources, because it places an added responsibility on the owners to see that law observance is maintained so far as each individual camp is concerned. As the license is renewable yearly it is obviously in the interest of the licensee to see that his operations are conducted in such a manner that the best possible service and accommodation will be offered the tourist at rates consistent with the class of service rendered. The threat of cancellation will, it is believed restrain any operator who contemplated any unscrupulous practice.

From the standpoint of the owner or operator much benefit should accrue. Embodied in each application for a license is a questionnaire asking for information in connection with the camp which might be available for the Department to disseminate to tourists. The answers provide information as to the number and kind of cabins, the various kinds of boats, number of available guides, names of adjacent lakes and rivers, kind of fishing, adjacent hunting territory, species of game to be had, nearest Provincial Highway and distance therefrom, nearest railway, and any other general information the operator may care to supply. This information when received is not only tabulated for the use of the Department of Game and Fisheries but is also passed on by us to the Provincial Tourist and Publicity Bureau which features the tourist advertising work for the Province and responds to thousands of enquiries yearly for just such information as will now be systematically available from the camp operators. This service should prove of very great benefit to those engaged in the operation of tourist camps in north-western Ontario, and the supervision exercised under the license will ensure protection for the visitor.

#### NEWS ITEM

A conference of Dominion and Provincial authorities will be held in Ottawa on the 4-5-6 January to discuss the game and fish sit-



uation and it is possible the Migratory Birds' Act will be included in the discussion. Ontario will be represented at this Conference.

The following from one of our Overseers shows the "Vers"-atility of our Field Force:

SIGNS

R. G. S.

The equinoctial storms are past,  
Follow mornings with hoar frost white,  
Tamarac green turns brown at last,  
A full round moon betrays the night.

Chilling waters, impulse giving  
To the lake trout, far deep below,  
Reproduction, Nature living,  
Dark shoals for spawning brighter show.

Both from the soil, and from the town  
Harkening back to days of yore,  
Poachers with their snares come down  
Prowling along the wooded shore.

Under his coat, a net concealed-  
It could be easily cast away,  
A boat, only to him revealed  
Was it there when you passed to-day?

Lifts oars from the brush, steps on board,  
Like a shadow he plies his way  
Burlapped thole-pins--sure to afford  
Silence, lest he himself betray.

Elusive Mauraders of night  
Killing the trout that are spawning,  
Speeding away with coming light  
To their lairs, before the dawning.

EPILOGUE

To have your cake and eat it,  
Impossible as can be,  
A spawning fish defeated  
Is the surest way to see  
Our lakes and streams depleted  
Of all the finny tribes,  
And Sportsmen will not gather  
For all of Beauty's bribes.

To the Staff, the Field Force and Sportsmen in general,

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

.....







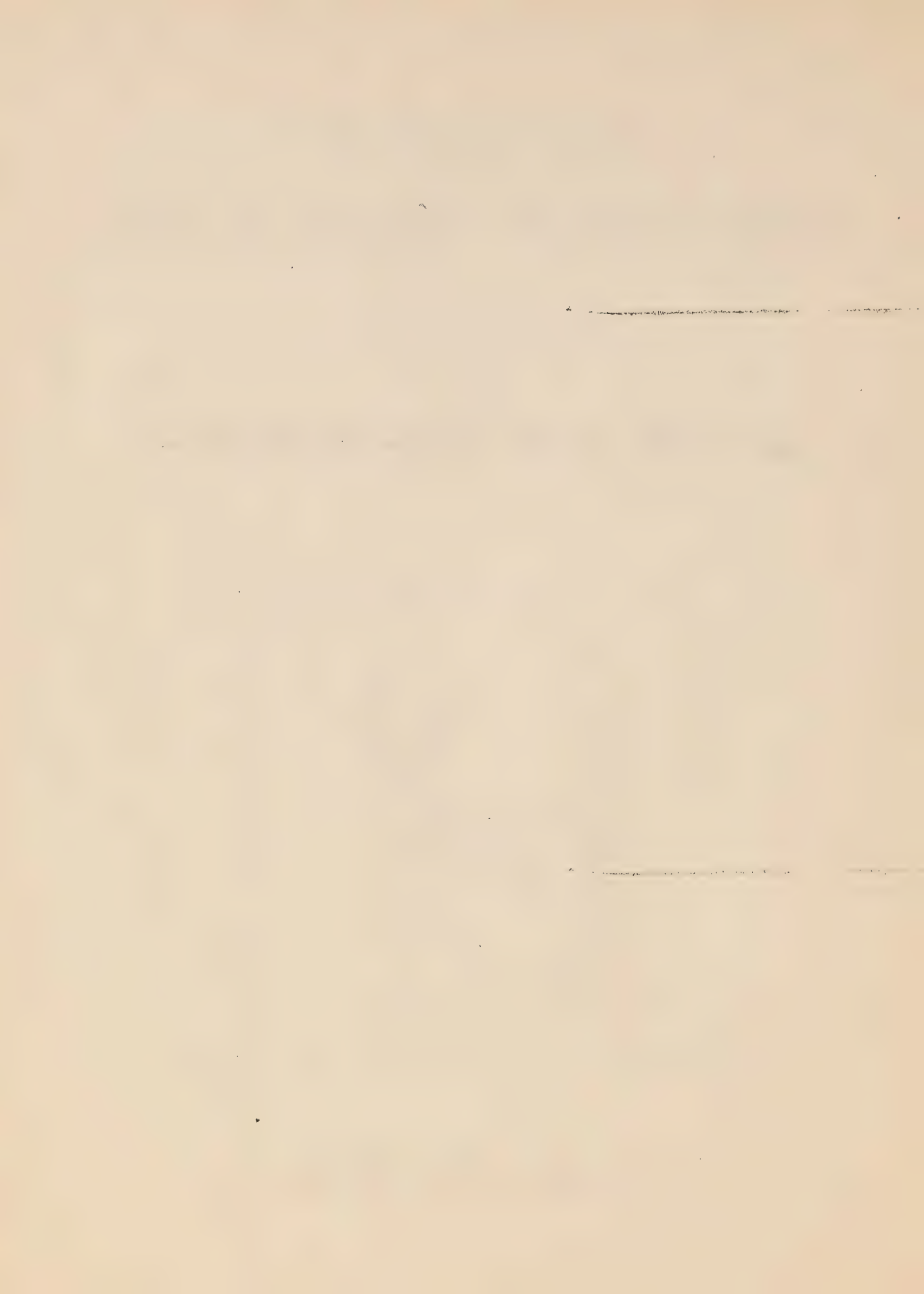


# ONTARIO MONTHLY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
GAME AND FISHERIES



JANUARY 1937



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

Department of Game and Fisheries  
Toronto Ontario

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, Minister in charge of Department, Published to stimulate interest in the conservation of the Wild Life Natural Resources of the Province of Ontario.  
D. J. Taylor, Deputy Minister.

Vol. 1.

No. 5.

In this issue, the first of a New Year, our thoughts are naturally directed ahead rather than backward. The old year presented us with much to be thankful for, despite the inhumanities that still persist in the world of men. The New Year is still an unknown quantity. It has unlimited possibilities from the standpoint of the sportsman if we but catch a vision of the spirit of the times as manifested in the ever growing desire to conserve and restore our wild life resources, and realize our individual responsibility for the success of that ideal.

The year that is opening up before us is also unfolding for the wild life that inhabits forest, field and stream. What is our attitude towards these resources of nature going to be? It should not be founded on the conduct of others, unless that conduct is based on the highest ethics of sportsmanship. "If everyone", says a recent writer, "conducted himself in accordance with the worst of us, little would remain for any to enjoy; but if many of us will each conduct himself according to a high ideal much will remain for all of us and even for coming generations."

The ethics of sportsmanship demand that we keep certain ideals before us while enjoying these healthful recreations which our wild life affords. In hunting there are many things that "just aren't done." Every good sportsman knows what they are. Let us refrain from all unethical practices to the end that more game will survive and as a consequence more will be available.

To the angler we suggest a year of "Fishing" rather than "catching fish." There is a subtle distinction between the two which implies a keener interest in the art and less in the result. The thrill of fishing is all in the battle and not in the outcome. There is more pleasure in outwitting one gamey adversary through skill and strategy than in catching half a dozen by more forceful but less skilful methods. Let us fish for sport rather than food and the supply will keep pace with the demand.

Imbued with such ideals we see ahead a year of concerted effort on a common front, with the assurance that we are gradually drawing closer to a realization of our dreams of Better Hunting and Fishing.





PITCHFORKS AND PETTICOATS

Reposing in a case in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings is a specimen of the Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) which once was found in large numbers in the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario and as far as Niagara Falls, where this majestic barrier prevented further migration. It is a relic of pioneer days when natural conditions favoured its development and the streams were still more or less free from pollution and obstructions. We are reliably informed that this particular specimen was mounted about 1883, and represents almost the last of the race so far as Ontario is concerned. Occasional specimens were seen for probably another decade, but these may have been stragglers from the coast or lower river hatcheries. One reason for referring to this particular species of 'departed glory' is the fact that while plodding through some ancient volumes covering conditions half a century or more ago we came across the following interesting and intensely suggestive extract from a report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries for the year ending June 30th, 1869. It was read at an International Conference held in Rochester, 1891, and is headed "Special Report of Messrs. Whitcher and Venning, on Fish-breeding at Newcastle, Ontario." "We proceeded yesterday to Newcastle, Ontario, in compliance with your directions, and made a personal inspection of the fish-breeding establishment there under charge of Mr. Wilmot. The premises are situated on Baldwin's or Wilmot's Creek, a small stream traversing the Township of Clarke, in the County of Durham, and discharging into Lake Ontario, about forty miles east of Toronto. This creek is well situated for salmon, as it forms a natural inlet of the sheltered bond of the lake between Bondhead and Darlington. Although at its entrance into the lake it passes through a marshy lagoon, the bed of the stream farther inland is of a gravelly nature and the water is pretty clear, regular, and lively in its flow. In early times it was famous for salmon, great numbers of which frequented it every autumn for the purpose of spawning. They were so plentiful forty years ago that men killed them with clubs and pitchforks, women seined them with flannel petticoats, and settlers bought and paid for farms and built houses from the sale of salmon. Later they were taken by nets and spears, over 1,000 being often caught in the course of one night. Concurrently with such annual slaughter, manufactories and farming along the banks had obstructed, fouled and changed the creek from its natural state, and made it less capable of affording shelter and spawning grounds. The yearly decreasing numbers at length succumbed to the destruction practised upon them each season from the time of entering the creek, until nearly the last straggler had been speared, netted or killed."

We are not prepared to state that the clubs, pitchforks and flannel petticoats wielded with such abandon were the sole cause of the extinction of this species, but we do emphatically declare that they hastened its demise.



CHAPLEAU CROWN GAME PRESERVE

The value of Game Preserves is graphically illustrated by an item in a daily newspaper which states that more than fifteen hundred buffaloes have been shot in Alberta recently, because there were too many of them. In Rondeau Park a large number of deer were shot this winter for the same reason. During the past two years the Department has been conducting an intensive campaign for the establishment of Game Preserves throughout the Province. Much additional land has recently been set aside for the purpose, particularly in South-western Ontario, and very gratifying reports have been received in connection therewith. That these Preserves are an important phase of the conservation movement is acknowledged, but it is extremely interesting as well as gratifying to have their effectiveness described at first hand by a recognized authority on the great outdoors. The accompanying article by Ozark Ripley is taken from Forest and Outdoors, -1932.

"Not so many hours ago I travelled in northern Ontario through a preserve territory which I had visited years ago while on hunting and fishing trips. It is within contact by railway, but not yet by automobile. To be exact, it is known as the Chapleau Preserve and includes the great areas of water of the Messinabie with its many tributaries, all flowing to the untamed northland. And then but two hundred yards on the south side of this part of the Height of Land all waters flow south, starting with Dog Lake, Manitowick and afterwards the Michipicoten river is the take off which ultimately ends in Lake Superior.

The vast canoe routes in either direction were not what held my attention so much as the amazing increase of game and fish, both within the boundaries of the preserve and, strange to say, for some ways on the outside where hunting and fishing are open at the behest of the public during certain established seasons. Years ago, all this acreage was threatened with depletion of game and fish. The less conscientious logging concerns whether of the pulp wood variety or actual timber itself, thought nothing of feeding their crews at the camps with moose meat and venison at all seasons of the year. The devastating Finn took game and fish and fur at will with any device he could summon to his help. White men of all sorts did likewise. Both the Cree and Ojibway Indians began to do the same since, they argued in a mental frame of self-protection: "If we do not get them first, the white man will"! Something which would never have occurred to the northern aborigines had not the Christian white man shown them his love for wanton waste.

Briefly, an immense tract of land was set aside for a fish and game sanctuary some five or six years ago. I had to rub my eyes several times before I could believe the great change that had taken place through actual enforcement of the sanctuary idea. It was hard to believe that I was awake when I began to see moose after moose and beaver after beaver and otter when a few years ago it took hard hunting to discover any signs of wild life, save in the most remote haunts of the present preserve.





A normal increase is always expected in a preserve or game sanctuary, but when I began to see almost as many moose on the cut skirts of the preserve near Messanabie, Nemegos and Lochalsh, only then I was able to realize its true value and what was being given directly to the sport loving public by it. Nothing registers conviction like a good healthy increase everywhere outside the boundaries of a preserve and the educational value it has on so many within close contact with it who never before gave a thought to the reasons for the scarcity of wild life, or the opposite.

Starting a preserve way off in the wilderness parts shows rare acumen in the matter. Our delays have usually been that we go in for the subject of national and state preserves in many instances after certain areas have been completely depleted. Then the purchase of breeding stock from elsewhere is necessary, stock which requires considerable time to accommodate itself to the locality before it responds to the call of Nature to reproduce its kind. A sanctuary which is established before game is depleted has a chance and does show a rapid increase. There game is protected against its greatest enemy, man, and against preying creatures during the breeding season and for all periods of existence.

That the overflows from very large preserves will reach the public was attested by the fact of the number of mature moose I saw a long ways off from the limits of the sanctuary, particularly in localities where game in recent years had become noticeably scarce. I gazed in admiration near Woman River, at the largest bull moose I ever saw in all my life. Such an immense velvet spread for this time of year, such gigantic size! How did this huge creature escape for years the hunters was past knowing, save that the confines of the preserve had afforded him and his kind real sanctuary when most needed.

That majestic fellow refused to be startled at my presence though two cows farther off from me with twin calves, refused to accept me as harmless, like the massive bull, and quickly trotted off into the forest. The bull stared contemptuously, then wonderingly. When he realized that I made no further advance toward him, he lowered his great head to the water and began to feed on the succulent vegetation. Then I meditated and said to myself that this preserve was saving this and other big heads for some lucky hunter in the future.

Perhaps the first question that comes to a government, state or private individual, when contemplating sacred precincts for wild life is, will it pay? What was before me in the Messanabie region could well be elsewhere. For the very same sort of thing was answering the question. I thought deeply and from every slant, commercial and otherwise, and I came to the conclusion that the Chapleau Preserve, if inventoried, would show a profit, like all of its kind. The beaver, otter, mink and other furbearers which have had sanctuary here and have multiplied in their actual pelt value on the market would amount to a big sum of money. The deer, bear, moose and grouse were augmented in value greatly when consideration was given to their full equivalent in money as estimated by the





cost of the hunting license fees, the money paid to common carriers, outfitters and even the sporting goods stores which supply the equipment to the hunter. Think all of this over, even to the very clothes the hunter wears, or the canoe the guide employs, guns and ammunition, for until we cover all this we can not get right down to the true dollar and cents value.

The movement of moose, deer, grouse and other game can not altogether be confined. When they take a notion to move out of its bounds, they will do it against the inhibitive wishes of man. And everywhere, perhaps on a small scale, where private or government or state sanctuaries have been established, there is a Nemegos, Lochalsh, Messanabic or Woman River into which game has leaked to provide sport for someone."

---

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In last month's issue we stated that game belonged to the Crown, i.e. the people, and the right of possession within the law was the heritage of all. This right of possession we pointed out involves certain individual proprietary rights over habitat which must be overcome before possession is legal within the law.

Such rights cannot be eliminated by simply riding roughshod over private property, and the attempt to do so by irresponsible hunters is gradually creating a situation which must receive the serious consideration of every sportsman. Hunting in Canada is not the prerogative of the rich alone. Every man, whatever his social status, may indulge in this healthful recreation. For generations there has been almost complete freedom from interference in the legal pursuit of game. An extensive game country sparsely populated, and a tolerant farm population have fostered a system in keeping with the democratic ideals under which we live.

In short, we have been generously permitted to roam almost at will over hill and dale, forest and field, as if such freedom were ours by some constitutional right. It is a system we have greatly enjoyed for it made possible a general participation in the pursuit of game which is only feasible where the cost is negligible.

Times have changed however. The development of agriculture, with its intensive crop routine, livestock raising and keener interest in well kept lands, has not only largely destroyed habitat, but made the farmer less anxious to welcome the stranger on his property. Fences are no longer the picturesque zigzag rails of other days, and while probably more artistic, are less capable of supporting the weight of those who find it convenient to climb them. As a result they are easily destroyed unless care is exercised in climbing over them. There is a right and a wrong way of doing this, but unfortunately, for the many who are careful, there are increasing numbers who have the impression that a comparatively thin wire has the carrying capacity of a cedar rail, and proceed to scramble over,



with disastrous results to the fence. Listen to the farmer, a genial, good natured soul with whom we were discussing some aspects of game preservation the other day; "I put up a new wire fence", he said, "and two days later some fool who wanted to get over it chose the weakest point, halfway between two posts, and left a sagging, drooping fence in his wake. Is it any wonder, he continued, that the farmer is beginning to resent intensely the intrusion upon his property of hunters generally. Why, my neighbour, Mr. Blank, going home for lunch from the bush, where he had been cutting wood, noticed three hunters crossing his land, but did not interfere with them. On returning to his job after lunch he discovered that his logging chain and crosscut saw had been stolen."

From a local newspaper dated January 6th, we copy the following headlines with an extract from the news item: "Wearied by Hunters,--- County farmers protest damage - prefer rabbits. If it's a question of whether they would rather accommodate hunters or rabbits, farmers will take the rabbits. At one time farmers welcomed the increase in rabbit-hunting popularity, but there is a change of opinion. Among other damage laid to the hunters are broken fences, gates left open and trampled crops." As a matter of fact the farmer welcomes the control of the rabbit menace by the hunter provided it is done without involving him in needless expense and loss. However, rabbits do not destroy fences, tramp down fall wheat or destroy domestic live stock, hence, his alleged preference for the lesser of two evils.

We commented upon this situation rather fully last month, but it seems necessary to keep the matter continually before the interested sportsmen until some definite concerted action is taken to appease the farmer and protect those recreational advantages we have enjoyed for generations. Only one who is familiar with hunting conditions in Europe, including Britain, can appreciate the advantages of a system which enables the man whose income is below the income tax bracket to enjoy in large measure the same outdoor sport as his more favoured fellowman. Over there, hunting is a by-product of wealth, and game is controlled by individual management. The hills and dales are reserved for private sport while the grouse, the stag, the fox and the rabbit are nourished with loving care to provide income for the owner and recreation for those whose bank accounts will permit them to indulge in hunting them. It is a system which stimulates the production of game for commercial purposes, but, so far as the man with average income is concerned, offers few opportunities for sport.

It is difficult for a European with a knowledge of conditions in his part of the world to understand how it is possible for us to retain a supply of game at all under a system which permits everyone of legal age to shoot, and his inherent ideas regarding the proprietary rights of landowners would probably receive somewhat of a shock were he to witness the abandon with which some of our hunters comport themselves on private property in the pursuit of game. He would early learn however, that the majority of gunners are decent, lawabiding citizens, while the minority have not yet learned the ethics of sportsmanship, but, through organ-





ized effort can not only be controlled, but largely assimilated. He would also learn that behind the scenes is an administrative Department carrying on a programme of conservation, propagation and restoration which has a most important bearing on the results.

We acknowledge however, that the freedom we have enjoyed and which has been in effect for generations is passing through a period of intense and critical testing such as it has never before experienced. It is essentially an equitable system developed under the influence of democratic ideals, and yet it can survive only if we realize that it is ours, not by right, but by privilege. In short Mr. Sportsman we must get together to control the non-sportsman group or we shall wake up to find our privileges cancelled. The farmer holds the key to the situation, let us show him that we not only respect his rights but are conscious of our privileges, and are determined that the despoiler shall no longer evade the consequences of his misdeeds.

A recently formed association, whose members are keenly interested in jack rabbit hunting, has taken the following method of ensuring that its drives will be orderly and its members respect the rights of the landowner. Each member is supplied with a red arm band on which is inscribed the name of the Association and the owner's number on the membership roll. It is essential to a participation in any drive organized by the Association that each member should wear his arm band and, before starting, a canvass is made to see that each hunter is provided with a gun license. The members are duly impressed with the necessity for care and courtesy while hunting over private lands and each has a restraining influence over the other. If, however, a member of the party should run foul of a farmer for some act which invokes censure, the identification of the man concerned, if the act has not been witnessed by another member, may readily be made by the farmer sending the number on the arm band to the Secretary of the Association. Disciplinary action will then be taken by the Association. It is a step in the right direction.

---

#### BACK UP THE GAME WARDEN

The Game Warden is the protector of our wild life resources. He is charged with the enforcement of the Game and Fisheries Laws, and these laws are framed with the idea of conserving public property to ensure its wise use in the best interest of all concerned. His part is a difficult one, however. The constable who deals with the petty lawbreaker as well as the most hardened criminal has the sympathy of the mass of good citizens, despite the fact that there are those who seem to think that prosecution for a minor offence is persecution, and the officer who does his duty in this regard is an oppressive bully. There is a widespread impression among the general public however, that the Game and Fisheries Laws are not serious contenders with other laws which demand obedience, or else!



They are thought to be more elastic in their scope and thus may readily be stretched without any particular qualms of conscience. As a result the Game Warden when he does his duty frequently gets more abuse than sympathy. "What are a few birds more or less, or a few fish over the limit or under size"? asks the thoughtless ninrod and the short-sighted angler. "Nobody is being hurt thereby and besides I might as well have them as the poacher." Such an attitude of mind is to be deplored. It is the embodiment of selfishness for it completely ignores the rights of others or the inevitable result of the indiscriminate use of any commodity. It is too bad that despite all the efforts of conservationists we still have the poacher, but two blacks will never make a white, and the unvarnished truth is that taking fish or game illegally is just plain breaking one of the ten commandments, and that, it must be admitted is serious enough to warrant the intervention of the protective officer.

The activities of the Game Warden are dictated by the necessity for the protection of our resources and the elimination from our sporting activities of the element of unfairness which characterizes infractions of the regulations. The good sportsman is always careful to observe the letter and spirit of the law. In doing so he naturally has to curb his desires and restrict his pleasures. It exasperates him therefore, to see others with less pronounced scruples calmly ignoring the regulations and making light of their actions.

The laws regulate the wise use of the available resources, be it game or fish, and an accumulation of minor infractions may be serious for any species or district. The Game Warden is invariably courteous and impartial in handling what is, after all, a difficult job. He deserves the co-operation of every sportsman and the backing of every lawabiding citizen.

---

#### CONCERNING THE .22

Of the various classes of firearms in use today the .22 rifle presents the greatest problem to the protective officers. Its destructive power is not generally understood, and because of this it is always a source of potential danger. In the hands of inexperienced youth and irresponsible age it is a serious menace to game propagation, and is the favourite weapon of the poacher.

In connection with the confiscation of arms for infractions of the regulations, it has been a recognized custom, where the offence is a minor one and the Department deems the offender has been adequately punished by the Court, to sell the gun back to the owner. Having in mind however, the very real problem presented by the .22, it is possible that regulations may be put through depriving the Department of the authority to return confiscated .22 rifles or airguns other than at the annual sale where these articles are disposed of by written tender.





## THE AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN

At a recent wild life Conference in Ottawa, attended by representatives from each Province, a discussion took place on the class of weapons to be permitted under "The Migratory Birds Act." A resolution was adopted legalizing the use of the automatic shotgun when properly plugged to hold only two shells. If this is put into effect, Ontario will probably change her regulations and permit the general use of the automatic shotgun when properly plugged to conform with the above resolution.

---

## NON-RESIDENT ANGLING STATISTICS

The value of the Tourist Industry to the Province has been emphasized in a previous issue of the Bulletin. Its importance becomes more and more evident each year as records are made available and data in connection therewith is systematically tabulated. The Department of Game and Fisheries exacts a license fee from non-residents who desire to fish in the Province. A tabulation of the licenses issued divulges some very interesting information. Returns to date show that a total of 48,097 non-residents angling licenses were issued during 1936. This total does not by any means represent the number of visitors legally fishing within the Province. It is provided by the regulations that "children under the age of twelve years may angle without a license, when accompanied by a member of his or her family who is in possession of a non-resident angling license." Further provision is made for the issuing of a special Family License covering a husband, his wife and their children not over the age of twenty-one years, at a fee somewhat higher than that for an individual license. Of the total numbers of licenses issued 12,810 were Family Licenses.

It is regrettable that, because of the provisions in the licenses covering children and whole families, figures are not available showing the total number of non-resident anglers. It is possible however, to obtain a rough estimate of the figures by averaging the number of anglers to each license. A conservative estimate of the average number of children under twelve fishing under the protection of an individual license would be one per license. This gives a total of 70,574. A husband, wife and two children would probably be a reasonable estimate of the numbers fishing under each family license and would represent a total of 51,240. Combining these two groups we have a grand total of 121,814 non-residents legally enjoying the recreational advantages of the excellent fishing provided by the Province.

It should be noted of course that the above total in no way represents the numbers of tourists who are lured to the Province because of the available fishing. A large number of individual licenses are issued to married men whose families accompany them during the holiday period, but the wife and family have other recreational interests so are not included





in the expenditure for fishing, nor in the above totals. There are others who do not figure in the computation, but perhaps we had better not become involved by trying to carry our analysis further.

As each licensee furnishes the Department with his name and address it is possible to compile a distribution of the different states and countries represented by the license holders. It is interesting to note that every State in the Union with the exception of Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming had representatives fishing in Ontario last summer. The nearby States of Ohio, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois sent us thousands of sportsmen, the others contributed lesser numbers in direct ratio to their geographical locations. The Provinces of Canada from British Columbia to Quebec supplied their quotas of visiting anglers but the Maritimes are not represented. Most interesting of all however, is the information that fishing licenses were sold to visitors from such widely separated parts of the world as England, Java, Porto Rico, Australia, East Africa, Panama, Hawaii, India and the West Indies.

In view of the steadily increasing numbers of non-resident anglers added to the ever mounting total of resident fishermen, additional restrictions may be necessary and it is just possible that non-residents will be limited to the export of one days legal catch instead of two.

---

#### "A WORD TO THE WISE"

We would draw to the attention of sportsmen the fact that a Session of the Legislature has been called for mid January and will probably be functioning before this issue reaches you. In connection therewith a circular letter has already been mailed to the sportsmen's Associations reminding them that the Fish and Game Committee will meet sometime during the Session to study the Game and Fish situation, and that any recommendations or suggestions from the sportsmen for presentation to that Committee should be forwarded to the Department. This intimation is sent out early so that the various Associations may have an opportunity of discussing the problems which arise during the year and of preparing the necessary recommendations in connection therewith. Even among sportsmen it is not to be expected that there will be uniformity of thought or general agreement as to what constitute the best measures for the control of hunting and fishing and the conservation of the resources which make these sports possible. The sportsman's attitude of mind, his breadth of vision, his practical experiences and the conclusions he has drawn therefrom, his willingness to concede the rights of others, and that others may be right, these are some of the individual characteristics which invariably make united representation difficult.

It is essential of course that in any discussion of the Game and Fish problem which is likely to terminate in a resolution or recommendation to the Committee of the Legislature, and which, if acted upon, would affect all sportsmen, the matter should be approached from the standpoint



of the greatest good for the greatest number, having in mind the fact that game is a common heritage and in no sense have sportsmen an exclusive claim thereto. The matter must also be viewed from the standpoint of what is best for the protection of this common heritage looking towards the interests of future generations, and not merely our own individual or collective recreational pleasures.

The necessity for co-operation and the benefits of organized effort are never more apparent than when discussing the advisability or otherwise, of amendments to the regulations. Individual ideas and opinions are apt to be coloured by local conditions, or hastily developed without a knowledge of all the facts, and as a result the conclusions arrived at are frequently astray and the remedies of no practical value. A general discussion of all the circumstances however, will invariably bring out most of the related facts and the assembling of these facts makes the task of drawing up constructive suggestions easier and more truly representative.

---

A DAD'S AMBITION

I want my lad to be a man  
With red blood in his veins.  
To be with sportsmen all he can  
And watch them as he trains  
To bait a hook, to tie a fly,  
To thumb a reel, and cast.  
To play a trout, or nobly try  
To land a bass, at last.  
To learn to love the great outdoors,  
And thrill at nature's charm.  
I am content, he then abhors  
The things that bring him harm.  
He'll grow to manhood strong, and then  
In body, soul, and mind,  
He'll love and share with fellowmen  
The things that thrill his kind.  
He'll do his best to win, if fair,  
No mean advantage take.  
To share the shots in life, and care  
To lasting friendships make.  
He'll smile and take the gain or strife  
If win or lose his lot.  
He'll learn to aim his best in life -  
No cripples - just one shot.

G. G. Hill,

in the Pennsylvania Angler.

---









# ONTARIO MONTHLY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
GAME AND FISHERIES



FEBRUARY, 1937



## MONTHLY BULLETIN

Department of Game and Fisheries  
Toronto Ontario

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, Minister in charge of Department.	Published to stimulate interest in the conservation of the Wild Life Natural Resources of the Province of Ontario.
D. J. Taylor	Deputy Minister.

Vol. 1.

No. 6.

Conservation has become one of the most important words in the English language. We find it featured in the pages of our newspapers and magazines. It is the theme of discussion at all of our Game Protective Association meetings. It has a very definite bearing on all phases of our economic, industrial and social life. The preservation of the sources of wealth are the concern of the nation. Industrial organizations practice conservation in order to protect their capital investment. Insurance Companies have Conservation Departments engaged in trying to protect and extend the span of human life. Social systems and social services are devised with the object of conserving health and contributing as much as possible to human happiness. Every Department of Government which has to do with natural resources is preaching the conservation of these resources. The Department of Lands and Forests, for example, is carrying on a campaign of conservation through reforestation, to save the soil and restore the forests. The Department of Mines is concerned with conserving the wealth from the mines for these resources once exhausted can not be replaced. The Department of Game and Fisheries is directing its energies towards the conservation of our wild life resources. And so the word enters into almost every phase of our complex system of national life, and has become a challenge to our ideals of social, recreational and industrial achievement.

Conservation, from the standpoint of all those interested in wild life is the hope of future abundance. It concerns every sportsman, nay, it implies sportsmanship. It means viewing these resources from an unselfish standpoint and recognizing the inherent rights of others in them. It demands that we curb needless waste by the exercise of personal restraint, and the observance of the regulations. Its success involves co-operation in its broadest sense, individual as well as collective, for only through co-operation can we ensure worth while protection.

The value of our wild life resources is beyond computation. We may in part arrive at a rough estimate of their economic value, but their aesthetic and recreational values are personal and therefore, priceless. "Conservation means the wise use of our natural resources." Let us exercise wisdom and conserve a valuable heritage.



1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

WHAT THE SPORTSMAN BRINGS HOME

The Sportsman is frequently a much maligned individual. He is pictured as setting out armed with the latest scientific weapons of destruction and killing indiscriminately for his own savage pleasure the denizens of forest and field, lake and stream. He is charged with being brutal and sadly lacking in the finer attributes of life, because he takes pleasure in the pursuit and destruction of the creatures of the wild. The picture is not only misleading it is altogether erroneous. It is true that certain individuals who possess sporting equipment are lacking in those qualifications which distinguish the true sportsman, and by their actions frequently bring discredit upon the great majority of decent sportsmen. But it would be just as wrong to judge the standards of the majority by the actions of a few, as it would be to condemn the Church because a few members run foul of its teachings. The ethics of sportsmanship provide the finest ideals for character building and citizenship, and these are exemplified in the proper pursuit of fish and game.

In a recent editorial the Maryland Conservationist discusses this matter under the heading "What Sportsmen bring home." It is an enlightening article on the health giving and recreational value of the twin sports and the stabilizing influence which these sports have on the physical, mental and moral characteristics of the sportsman. What does the sportsman bring home? The visible evidences of his skill with rod and gun are a legal and legitimate reward of his adventures, and his right to these can not be disputed. These rewards are not always forthcoming however, and frequently he returns empty handed so far as game and fish are concerned. A sportsman however, is not primarily interested in supplying the table with food or of stocking the larder for future use,--therefore, the game he returns with is merely the proof of his success. What he does bring home is of far greater importance than game or fish or trophies of the chase. He brings home a body hardened and toughened by strenuous exercise, bronzed perhaps by the sun and glowing with a renewed vitality. He returns to work in better physical shape to meet the cares of business or the exacting demands of industry. He has recaptured in the outdoors the spirit of youth and life has become less trying. Says the Maryland Conservationist. "He goes into the woods with two strikes on him, and he comes out ready to knock a liner clear over the centre field for a home run."

Of course it will be argued that there are other ways of keeping physically fit which do not require the shooting of any of the wild things of the forest. One might, for example, hunt with a camera instead of a gun, and get most of the strenuous exertion incident to hunting. We admit there is some truth in this and are happy to note that ever increasing numbers of hunters are side stepping the gun for the camera. It is a foregone conclusion however, that all forms of sport do not have an individual appeal. Men have been hunting since time began and will continue to do so as long as there is any game to provide an incentive. The sportsman who ventures into the wilderness with rod or gun is taking part in a game which provides many antagonists, and it is the overcoming of these which supplies that physical and mental rejuvenation so much desired by the tired business

0 9 0 2 -

0 9 0 2 -

0 9 0 2 -

man. There is, for example, the mental combat against weakness of will; patience and perseverance are very necessary and the desire to quit is always present. The difficulties presented by rough heavy terrain have to be conquered, while adverse weather conditions tend to weaken his fortitude. Then too, there is always the element of disappointment caused by the elusive quarry that leads him to within sight of his goal, the prospective prize, then with a flip of the tail or a toss of the head disappears perhaps forever. Such incidents cause even the best of sportsmen a twinge of disappointment which rapidly gives place to a chuckle of amusement for, hare and tortoise like "the race is not always to the swift" nor the prize to the best equipped. In any case a good sportsman is not primarily interested in dead game, but derives his pleasure from the thrill of combat, and win or lose he is satisfied. It is obvious therefore, that a great deal of physical effort and mental restraint are necessary to the enjoyment of rod and gun.

In addition to a body hardened physically and better equipped to resume the activities of business and social life the sportsman returns from a hunting or fishing trip with renewed confidence in his own ability to stand the "gaff" because he has tested himself in an environment which calls for physical and moral strength, and has not been found wanting. Close association with nature develops a new outlook on life and a greater respect for the Creator. Thus he brings home more than a better body. He brings back a mental outlook on life which has been readjusted to view conditions as they should be and not as they are. In the cool refreshing breezes of the great outdoors the cobwebs of mental sluggishness have been blown away, and left a mind, keen, alert, wholesome and 'rarin to go'.

Refreshed physically and mentally the sportsman brings home to his wife and family, or prospective better half, a sweeter disposition and a keener sense of his responsibilities. "Every Community" says the Maryland Conservationist, "is better for the sportsmen in it, every woman is better for having married a sportsman, and every child is fortunate who has a sportsman for its father."

A tabulation of what the sportsman brings home reveals many other prizes, not of the wild life variety, which are really worth while. There are the happy memories of intimate friendships he has made. In the environment of nature and the close associations of the camp the soul of man becomes bared to his fellowmen. The mask of austerity, and assumed dignity which he considers necessary in his business life, or the frigid indifference so characteristic of man's relations with his fellowman are completely dropped and he stands revealed a red blooded human being. The friendships of the camp, the field and the stream are lasting friendships because they are developed in an atmosphere of rugged simplicity and keen harmony.

He brings back with him a knowledge of wild life which continually fires his imagination and calls forth his admiration. He recalls the continual struggle for existence which is the law of nature and admires the courage, resourcefulness and sagacity with which the creatures of the





wild face the struggle for life set up by that irrevocable law. He brings home with him lasting memories of the grandeur of nature; the fragrance of the forest; the golden tints of autumn; the soothing influence of a bed of cedar, spruce or balsam; sparkling streams; moonlight on the lake; and, above all the canopy of Heaven, awe-inspiring in its immensity and fascinating because of its mysteries. These things he assimilates. They enter his soul and abide with him.

We offer no apology for the game the sportsman may bring home with him, nor for the fact that the pursuit of the wild life is the lure which entices him into the great outdoors. The law of supply and demand regulates his activities and the good sportsman observes the law. He is a conservationist and conservation means among other things, "the securing of the greatest ultimate good for the greatest number of people."

What the sportsman brings home with him is infinitely more than the visible tokens of his skill; he brings a healthier body, a keener mind and a more wholesome outlook on life.

#### A PLEA FOR THE BOY

At a meeting of the Niagara Frontier Game and Fish Protective Association held recently a request was made by the Principal of the Collegiate Institute that the Association should enroll pupils of the Collegiate as junior members of the organization. The Principal stressed the need for teaching the youths the principles of conservation and suggested the influence of Association membership would be very useful in this regard. Plans are under way for a combined meeting of the Association and the students to explain the objects of the organization and to invite the youths to become junior members, in the interests of conservation. A motion was also passed by the meeting making the local Boy Scouts honorary members of the Association, with the leader a regular voting member.

This matter of introducing the boys to membership in a Protective Association without fees, or at a very nominal charge is one that might well become a part of the activities of every Association. There is no more necessary or fertile field for the dissemination of conservational education than among the youth of the Province. These boys are already fishing and hunting to a limited extent but without any definite idea of the value of our wild life resources or the regulations which govern them. Unless the matter has been brought to their attention through association with sportsmen or otherwise they have for the most part only a hazy idea of the various species of protected game fish or the limits of size and catch. In this connection we quote from a letter received by the Department from a gentleman greatly concerned over this very fact.

"May I", he writes, "call your attention to the fact that all over this Province on every dock in fishing waters little chaps are innocently fishing with worms and minnow hooks for sun fish, perch and other small fish. All is fish that they get. One little shaver had one



perch, two sunfish and seven small black bass in his catch. These bass ran six-seven inches and are the very fish that will supply the game fish for next season. To catch and pull out full grown bass does no harm at all - does good - because they are cannibals. The wholesale destruction of the 6-7 inch bass is a very great harm. I do not see what can be done about it."

This little "shaver" with his seven small black bass is typical of a situation which undoubtedly prevails throughout the fishing areas of the Province. Every summer hundreds of youngsters in like circumstances are unwittingly and unnecessarily destroying thousands of young bass because they know no better, and catching fish is a thrilling experience. The destruction of undersize fish is a more or less permanent problem not entirely confined to youngsters, which is difficult to solve. Yet, through organized effort and educational means, a great deal has been done to lessen the losses from this source. The writer of the letter quoted above is somewhat pessimistic as to anything being done to stop the practice. It is obvious that where boys are involved, a lack of knowledge concerning the regulations and the different species of fish is the contributing factor. It is quite possible therefore, through educational means, and by precept and example to considerably lessen the losses from this source. One of the best means of contacting the boys is to introduce them to our Protective Associations as junior members. They will feel thrilled at being permitted to meet with sportsmen, for every boy is a potential fisherman and has a burning desire to furnish his room with trophies of the chase, emblematic of his skill and daring. Once they become enthusiastic members of the Association it should not be difficult for us to instruct them on the ethics of sportsmanship and the principles of Conservation. It seems to us that the request and suggestion of the Niagara Falls' Principal is one that might be seriously considered by every Protective Association in the Province. We shall be glad to co-operate wherever possible.

#### "A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"

Speaking of imparting a knowledge of conservation to children reminds us of an incident related by a friend of ours. He was interestedly watching a girl of between 9 and 10 years of age fishing in Gull Lake. While he watched she caught a small fish and our friend approached and asked her what it was. "It's a baby lunge" she replied, with all the enthusiasm of an experienced angler. "What are you going to do with it?" continued the questioner. "I'm going to wet my hands and let it go again" she immediately answered. This, she proceeded to do in the most approved manner, demonstrating that she knew how to handle "babies."

#### CONCERNING QUAIL

In a letter to the editor appearing in a Toronto Newspaper, Mr. Cliff Dafoe, Secretary of the Kent County Sportsmen's Association, takes exception to certain statements in a previous letter and editorial





published in the newspaper on the general subject of our wild life resources. We have no intention of entering into any controversy on the matter but we note that Mr. Dafoe makes this statement. "It might be of interest to mention here that our quail (Kent County) have very noticeably increased since we have instituted short open seasons with limited bags. Previously, under total hunting prohibition, the quail were decreasing." It is a statement which is perhaps difficult for the uninformed person to understand for it seems to disprove the old adage which suggests that "You can't eat your cake and have it too." While pondering over the statement we came across a clipping from an unknown periodical which we had filed away for future reference. It is headed "Game Loss Rises With No Hunting, Scientist Finds" and is as follows:-

"Hunters might just as well take 30 per cent of the game birds on an area where a normal summer supply exists-if they don't, predatory animals and birds and the rigors of winter will take approximately that amount anyway. This is the surprising finding of Professor Paul L. Errington, of Iowa State College, who has been conducting one of the first wild life research investigations of its kind, according to the More Game Birds Foundation.

The Scientist found that on four experimental unshot areas used as field laboratories, where quail had been increased by game management up to the summer food and cover carrying capacities of the areas, 28.3 per cent of the birds ended up in the bellies of predators or died of winter exposure by the following spring.

On other areas under observation, where natural food, cover and other conditions were comparable but where hunters had been permitted to weed out some of the quail, winter losses were found to amount to but 10.3 per cent. Professor Errington's fact-finding appears to have produced the first scientific evidence tending to support a theory long held by sportsmen that crossing quail with a shotgun improves the strain by eliminating weaklings.

'Mortality seemed to be greatly accelerated in early November, coincident with the reduction of carrying capacity by drying up of herbaceous vegetation and the falling of leaves from deciduous brush', the scientist reports. 'On unshot areas having a population in excess of their carrying capacities the natural loss rate was enough to trim down the extra birds to what the environment would support.'

'When those birds not having a good place to stay are removed by shooting, the loss rate from predators automatically drops for the reason that there are few birds left that predators may easily get. On the basis of these findings, it would seem safe to take by fall shooting the percentage of birds commonly lost in unshot areas during the winter-or around 30 per cent', Professor Errington concludes".

In a very comprehensive and profusely illustrated article entitled "A life history study of the California Quail, with recommendations for its conservation and management", appearing in "California Fish and Game", E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., sets forth the results of his observations and study of the California Quail over a period of years. Anticipating either confirmation or denial of the findings of Professor Errington,





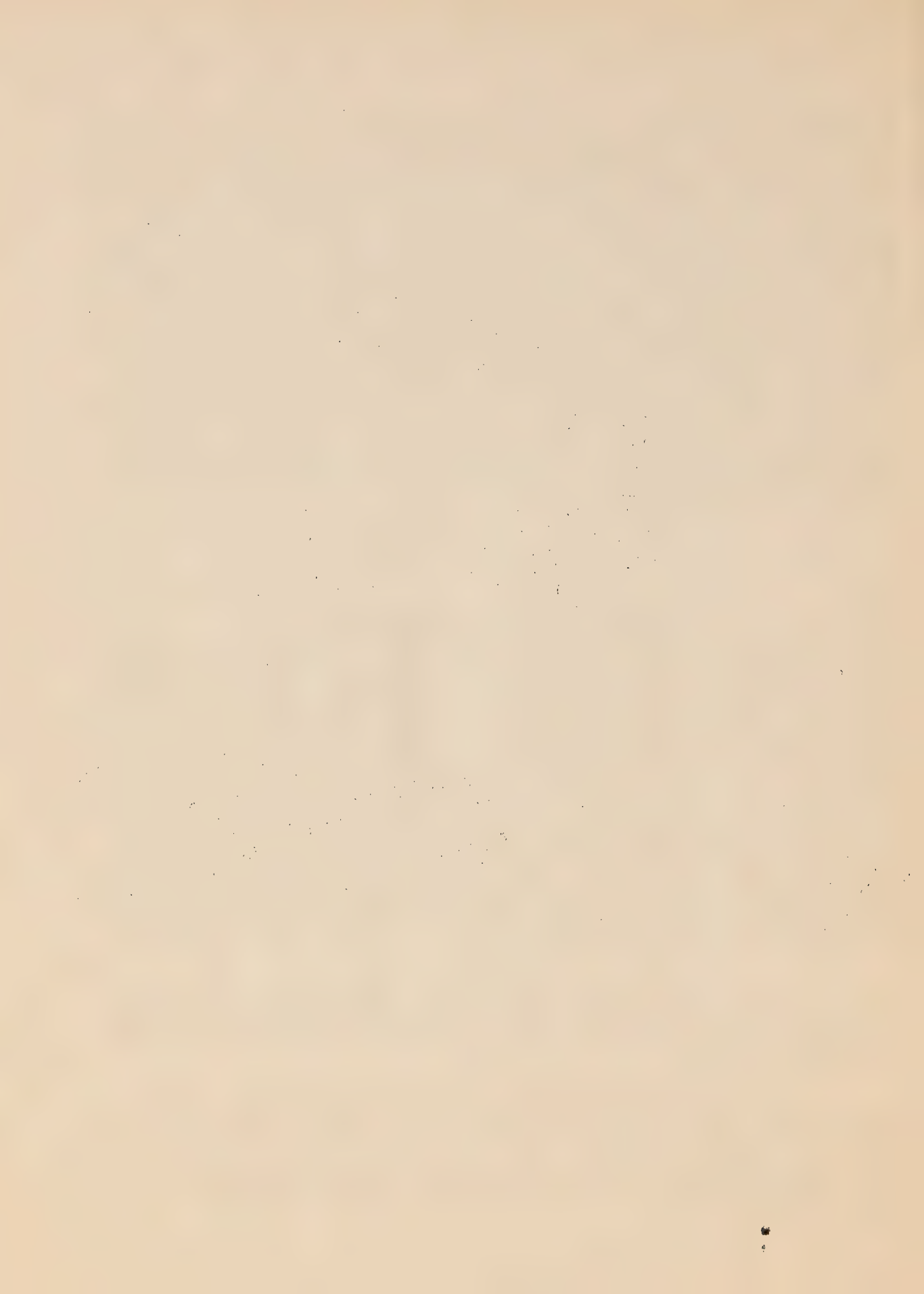
we turned to this report for further information on the subject. It would not be fair to lift a statement from the text without reference to the context, so at the outset we note that the writer has this to say; "The prominent part which hunting has played in the decrease of Quail is unquestioned. The history of the restrictive legislation of the last fifty years amounts to a recognition of this fact, and the early records of enormous annual kills made by market hunters furnish additional evidence. In spite of the increasing number of restrictions on hunting, including the now common practice of posting private lands, quail populations have been kept at a low point throughout most of the State by the increase in the number of hunters, the steady improvement in shooting equipment, the nearly universal use of the automobile, and the constant extension of roads into regions which were formerly inaccessible." Later on he further states; "It would be wrong to imply that hunting is the sole factor responsible for the present scarcity of quail. Actually, it is only one of five major causes of the decrease of birds, and in many localities it is overshadowed in importance by one or more of these other factors." These causes listed approximately in order of decreasing importance are;

1. Overhunting
2. Destruction of food and cover by;
  - (a) Clean farming
  - (b) Overgrazing
  - (c) Fire Control
3. Exclusive use by man of water sources.

The writer discusses predator control and comes to the conclusion that moderate control from the point of view of the hunter is desirable. He emphasizes the fact however, that by "moderate or regulated control, as contrasted with indiscriminate control, is meant the keeping in check of only those predators which are known to be harmful, as well as the maintenance of the proper balance between control measures and measures for improving the environment." Mr. Sumner then asks this question and proceeds to answer it. "To what extent can we add the burden of hunting to all the other burdens of a given quail population"? Part of the answer is as follows;- "Provided cover, feed and water are amply adequate, we can shoot a fair proportion of the birds-more than would have perished by that time of year as a result of nature's toll in the absence of hunting-and yet rest assured that the remainder, because freed from competition with their fellows for food, can survive the winter with less than the loss which would have normally occurred if the area had not been hunted."

"Just how great a proportion of birds may be safely taken by the hunter will vary considerably with the locality and the particular season." It was estimated at 19 per cent in the unusually favourable area studied by the writer.

"Some regions with deficient food and cover will never be able to produce much of a usable surplus unless the environment is greatly improved. On the other hand, a few regions which have never been improved continue to produce a shootable increase year after year. This is because nature has accidentally provided an ideal combination of conditions in these places."



It will be obvious from these authoritative statements that under certain conditions, and with reservations as to the numbers taken, the propagation of quail suffers no set back from limited shooting.

#### IT WAS AN ACCIDENT

The effect of carelessness is never more vividly portrayed than in the thoughtless and improper use of fire-arms. The man who "didn't know it was loaded" is a fit subject for mental examination, while the hunter who fires at a question mark should swap his gun for a camera. He is less liable to end up in a mental institution, and the permanent record of a living companion will bring him infinitely more comfort than the mental picture of a human tragedy. It is not a pleasing subject and we are tempted to refer to it only because of an incident which came to our notice the other day. It appears that three men were out hunting and while proceeding through the bush they heard something rustling in a thicket. The inevitable happened. One or more of the men immediately fired and a rabbit bounded out. It so happened however, that a Game Warden was in the vicinity and went over to investigate. In the thicket he found a newly killed pheasant. Unpleasant consequences resulted. The guns were seized and proceedings instituted for illegal shooting. That is the story as told by one of the men while making enquiry as to how he might get his gun back. He did not appear to realize that shooting at an unknown quantity is the lowest form of sporting endeavour, and one of the most dangerous. On the other hand he believed it an excellent excuse for sympathetic consideration of his request. They had no intention of shooting a pheasant. It was just unfortunate that the pheasant should have been shuffling around at that particular time, without making its identity clear. The moral is obvious and requires no elaboration.

Hunting tragedies among Ontario Sportsmen are infrequent, but they do happen occasionally and even experienced hunters need to be reminded that "it's better to be safe than sorry."

#### FISHING, FACTS AND FANCY

The days are lengthening rapidly, the sun is beginning to shine with a new radiance, and the thoughts of the Angler are already straying from business worries and social activities to his favourite stream and all it implies. The anticipatory pleasure is heightened by the many happy hours he spends putting his equipment in shape, making artificial lures and developing his skill in the piscatorial art. In such a mood the following extracts from an address by Herbert Hoover, while Secretary of Commerce are both amusing and interesting.

"Some millions of fishermen have invented thousands of new lures of seductive order and devised many new and fearful incantations, with a host of new kinds of clothes and labor-saving devices to carry them about.





"We have indeed made stupendous progress in physical equipment to overcome the mysteries of fish. We have moved upward from the rude but social conditions of the willow pole with a butcher string line, fixed with hooks ten for a dime, whose compelling lure is one segment of an angleworm and whose incantation is spitting on the bait. We have arrived at the high state of a tackle, assembled from the steel of Damascus, the bamboos of Siam, the silk of Japan, the lacquer of China, the tin of Bangkok, the nickel of Canada, the feathers of Brazil and the silver of Colorado - all compounded by mass production at Chicago, Ill., and Akron, Ohio. And for magic and incantations we have progressed to application of cosmetics to artificial flies and to wonders in special clothing with pigeon holes for varied lures and liniments and to calling a bite a "strike." Nor do I need to repeat that fishing is not the rich man's sport though his incantations are more expensive.

However, our fishermen can put in many joyous hours at home polishing up the rods, reels and lures, discussing new flies when the imponderable forces of spring begin to move their bones. They could not get such joy out of a collection of live angleworms and that is all a part of what we are trying to get at anyway - recreation and soul satisfaction. But I am off the track, because the Department of Commerce deals not in the beatitudes but in statistics. Moreover, we must also maintain the economic rather than the biologic method in discussion or some other Department of the Government will accuse Commerce of invading their authority. Nevertheless I may say, as an aside, that the fishing beatitudes are much amplified since Izaak Walton, for he did not spend his major life answering a bell. He never got the jumps from traffic signals or the price of wheat. Its blessings include not only Edgar Guest's "wash of the soul" with pure air, but they also now include discipline in the equality of men, meekness and inspiration before the works of nature, charity and patience toward tackle makers and the fish, a mockery of profits and conceits, a quieting of hate and a hushing to ambition, a rejoicing and gladness that you do not have to decide a blanked thing until next week."

"The moral and spiritual forces of our country do not lose ground in the hours we are busy on our jobs - their battle is the leisure time. We are organizing the production of leisure. We need better organization of its consumption. We devote vast departments of government, the great agencies of commerce and industry, science and invention to decreasing the hours of work - but we devote comparatively little to improving the hours of recreation. We associate joy with leisure. We have great machinery of joy, some of it destructive, some of it synthetic, some of it mass production. We go to chain theatres and movies: we watch somebody else knock a ball over the fence or kick it over the goal post. I do that and I believe in it. I do, however, insist that no other organized joy has comparable values to the outdoor experience. We gain less from the other forms in moral stature, in renewed purpose in life, in kindness and in all the fishing beatitudes. We gain none of the constructive rejuvenating joy that comes from return to the solemnity, the calm and inspiration of primitive nature. The joyous rush of the brook, the contemplation of the eternal flow of the stream, the stretch of forest and mountain, all reduce our egotism, sooth our troubles and shame our wickedness.

And in it we make a physical effort that no sitting on cush-



ions, benches or sidelines provides. To induce people to take its joys, they need some stimulant from the hunt, the fish or the climb. I am for fish. Fishing is not so much getting fish as it is a state of mind and a lure to the human soul into refreshment."

#### CHURCH and FISHING

The inspiration of the great outdoors and the benefits to be derived therefrom are known to every sportsman. This inspiration will never take the place of religion but it does serve to give us a better idea of the works of Creation. The following article clipped from North Dakota Outdoor, reproduced from Outdoor America will appeal to every sportsman.

"During a recent religious canvass, one man naming his preference as to churches, added facetiously, 'in winter, but fishing in summer'. The Minister of this particular church writes us, 'of course, this was meant as a good natured joke and has been so construed by the Committee and myself'.

"However, we believe that it is a joke that carries with it some pretty good religious sense. It seems to us that it is encouraging to know that men today can think of Church and fishing in the same moment. And we believe that it is encouraging to know that men are thinking of religion and connecting it up with the joyous side of life. Our opinion is that the man who loves life, wholesome outdoor life, makes a pretty good Church member. And we believe that it is a compliment to any Church for a man to feel that its kind of religion makes him a happier fisherman."

"God bless you, brother fishermen. Don't go fishing every Sunday next summer and leave the Church out. But go fishing when you can, and come to Church when you can. And we hope that the Church will be as clean and free and helpful as the great outdoors and the clear water where you fish. And we hope that you will be just as patient and persistent and as good a sportsman in your relation to the Church as you are in your fishing. And, by the way, it would help the Church a good deal if you would take the preacher fishing occasionally!"

.....

















3 1761 11546991 8

